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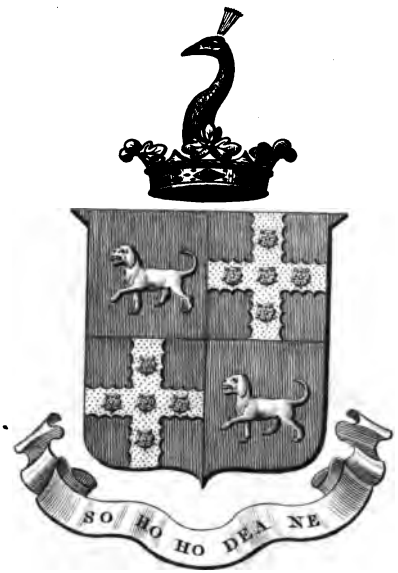

James Comerford
3046.

C. Perfect

THE

CIVIL, ECCLESIASTICAL, LITERARY, COMMERCIAL,

AND

MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY

OF

LEEDS, HALIFAX, HUDDERSFIELD, BRADFORD, WAKEFIELD,

DEWSBURY, OTLEY,

AND

THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICT OF YORKSHIRE.

BY EDWARD PARSONS.

VOLUME I.

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INTRODUCTION.

HOWEVER the imagination may delight to dwell among the snow-covered mountains, the stupendous rocks, the sunny vallies, and the luxuriant plains of other climes, our native Britain presents scenery infinitely more impressive and interesting, if not so sublime and magnificent, and awakens associations in the mind of the patriot, the philanthropist, and the Christian, far more glowing and permanent than were ever excited by the contemplation of the most renowned lands, whose beauties have inspired the muse of the poet, and whose revolutions have occupied the page of the historian. Its hills ascend to no vast elevation, its rivers are comparatively diminutive, its vegetable productions exhibit no tropical profusion; the mighty banyan tree, the stately palm, the fragrant spices, and the brilliant flowers of other regions are wanting; here are no Alps, nor Andes, nor Himalayas, to lift their heads above the clouds, no volcanoes astonish by their eruptions, no auriferous streams cast their treasures on its shores, and no inestimable gems sparkle in its mines—but it exhibits a verdure never burnt up by the scorching beams of the summer's sun, nor destroyed by the iron influence of protracted frost; it is variegated with every pleasing variety of aspect and of production; it presents the richest abundance combined with every essential character of softened beauty; and, what is infinitely better, it is replete with moral health and physical vigour, and with animating indications of freedom, of genius, of knowledge, of principle, and of religion.

These observations are particularly applicable to the district whose history we have undertaken to describe. Nothing can be more diversified than its surface. Situated upon the sloping declivities of the mountain range, justly called by Dodsworth, the English Apennine, "because the rain water which there falleth, sheddeth from sea to sea," it generally presents an undulating alternation of hill and valley, without any eminence which can deserve the name of a mountain, or any extent of level which can merit the appellation of a plain. Of romantic scenery, indeed, it

cannot boast; such scenery is only to be found where the mountains frown in rugged grandeur, where the streams dash in cascades amidst precipitous rocks, and where has been no extensive intrusion of the artifical creations of man,—yet in this district, if there is little of the grand and the romantic, there is every possible combination of the beautiful, the lively, and the pleasing. Its principal features are constituted by the three great vallies of the Wharf, the Aire, and the Calder, divided by irregular ridges gradually diminishing in elevation as they proceed towards the east, and themselves intersected by minor vallies, with their corresponding streams of incalculable value to agriculture and manufactures. The sides of these vallies are frequently beautifully fringed with extensive woods; their levels exhibit the most luxuriant fertility; the eminences by which they are bounded, are moulded into the most graceful forms; they are every where enlivened with cheerful villas, the abodes of comfort, opulence, and intelligence; and prospects are occasionally unfolded, which cannot be exceeded in any part of the kingdom, either for their wonderful extent, the variety of objects they embrace, their association with events of historic importance, and the memorials they afford of tribes and of nations which have long since descended to the grave.

The prospect from the summit of Otley Cheven, looking down into the valley of the Wharf—that from the vicinity of Harewood, looking towards Wetherby—that from the Pasture Hills near Armley, looking towards Kirkstall Abbey—that from Horsforth, looking towards Apperley Bridge—that from Temple Newsam, looking towards Castleford—that from Dewsbury Bank, looking towards Mirfield and Hopton—that from Robert Town, looking towards Kirklees Hall—that from Heath, looking down into the valley of the Calder—and many others of a similar description, combine all that is essential to the most beautiful landscapes, considerable rivers, picturesque elevations, waving woods, fields verdant in pasture or covered with corn, and numerous seats, many of them distinguished by imposing magnitude and architectural magnificence, and placed in the centre of spacious domains, upon which the arts of useful and ornamental agriculture have been exhausted.

Perhaps there is no district in England which contains a greater number of extensive villages, filled with an industrious and generally speaking, a prosperous population. In these vil-

lages, indeed, in the occupations of the people, and in the appearance of the country, a very great difference is observable. If a line be drawn from Otley to Leeds, and from Leeds to Wakefield, it will be found, that to the west of the line, the population is generally manufacturing, to the east it is generally agricultural —to the west is seen the dense smoke of innumerable manufactories, to the east the atmosphere is unpolluted by the disagreable contagion—to the west, with very few exceptions, the villages are unsightly, dirty, crowded, irregular, and occupied by inhabitants whose complexion and apparel denote the nature of the occupation in which they are engaged:—to the east, the villages are perfectly rural, some of them are strikingly beautiful, and are happily distinguished by the total absence of those unpleasant nuisances, which obtrude themselves upon the observation in the others:—to the west, the land is generally occupied by persons who do not pursue farming as an avocation, but regard it solely as a matter of convenience, and the greatest proportion of the land, especially in the neighbourhood of the towns, is occupied in small portions by the inhabitants, either for the use of their families, or in subordination to manufacturing purposes; but to the east, agriculture is assiduously and successfully pursued as a profession, and though there are few farms which in other counties would be denominated large, there are many which have satisfactory claims to comparative importance and extent.

While it is acknowledged without hesitation, that the manufacturing portion of the district, is by no means desirable as a place of residence for those who are altogether independent of trade and its associations, and while it is also confessed that the increase of its population and the extension of its commerce, have done much to impair the general effect and beauty of the scenery, yet it must be affirmed, that the affected refinement, or invincible prejudice, which recoils from the sight of a factory, sickens at the sound of a loom, and shudders at the concomitants of active trading industry, is equally odious, disgraceful, and absurd. What would be the condition, nay, what would be the appearance, of this incalculably important district, if it were not for its manufactures, for the wealth they have created and diffused, the support they communicate to countless families, and the innumerable wants they constantly supply? It is true, indeed, that if these manufactures were all annihilated, or if they had never been cultivated, the sensitive feelings of the antiquary would not be horrified by

witnessing the mouldering remains of the ivy-covered abbey, placed in strange juxta-position with the edifices of commerce; the tourist in search of the picturesque, would not be shocked by the unwelcome intrusion of smoky habitations into the previously secluded and solitary dell—the sound of the murmuring waterfall would not be heard in unison with the discordant "roar of revolving wheels"—the finny tribes would not be banished from the rivers, by the "deleterious and poisonous ingredients," which are thrown into the stream—the animals of the chase would not be driven from the research of their human destroyers, into less populated and more propitious districts; and the "impressive desolation" of the moor-lands, would not be interrupted and abolished, by the most unromantic system of inclosure and cultivation. We feel but little sympathy in the distress and lamentations which are excited and expressed upon such topics as these. How much more interesting is the scene, when all the capabilities of nature and contrivances of art, are elicited by active and ever progressive ingenuity, where the material elements are seen reduced to the dominion and rendered conducive to the interests of man, where useful commodities are fabricated to supply the demands of the most distant regions of the globe, and where innumerable demonstrations are afforded of the vigorous exercise of all the faculties of the human body and the human mind, and of the devotion of all the resources of every science to the momentous practical purposes of manufacturing perfection, of commercial greatness, and national opulence!

Since this subject will be fully discussed in a subsequent portion of this work, we only observe in this place, that had it not been for these unsightly manufactories and the system by which they have been produced and supported, had it not been for this trade so "disagreeable" in its external appendages, had it not been for the creative industry of this vast population thus devoted to pursuits upon which a spurious, a sickly, and a contemptible refinement affects to look with disdain—those hills would be covered with the bramble or the heather, which now display their productive meadows and spread their golden cornfields to the sun—instead of these abodes of comfort and opulence distributed over the scene, would be found an occasional cottage, beautiful it may be in prospect and romantic in situation, but filled perhaps with rags, squalour, and pining poverty—and though the stream might flow on with undiscoloured waters, and between

undisfigured banks, it would reflect no images of prosperity, and carry no burdens of commerce, of wealth, or of science to the ocean upon its waves. Manufactures may have defiled the appearance of the country, and changed the relative character of the villages; Hunslet is not to be compared with Harewood, nor Stanningley with Chapeltown; but these manufactures have transformed heaths, deserts, quagmires, bogs, and scenes of desolation into tracts of fertility and abundance, and they have increased the beauty, as well as the richness of the agricultural district, by stimulating, extending, and assisting the operations of those cultivators of the soil, who would otherwise have found no markets for their produce, and obtained no remuneration for their industry. In these observations we have exclusively confined ourselves to the manufactures of the district upon the appearance of the country, and here for the present we dismiss the topic.

The air of the district is unquestionably salubrious; except in the largest towns, and in some branches of manufactures, there is no reason to believe that the average of health and life has diminished within the last hundred years; the vapours which emanate from the numerous steam engines have not produced those disastrous effects which have been frequently ascribed to their prevalence; nor have the inhabitants been visited beyond those of the other provinces of the kingdom with the ravages of epidemic disease. The atmosphere of Leeds and perhaps of Bradford, from the number of factories and the abundance of coals, is never to be found in a state of natural purity,* and the same observation applies to the air of some of the villages. But these are

* Mr. Thackrah in his work on "The Effects of the Principal Arts, Trades, and Professions, and of Civic States and Habits of Living, on Health and Longevity, &c." a work which intitles the author to the appellation of a public benefactor, says upon this subject, "I should suppose the centre of this town (Leeds) to have an atmosphere as vitiated as that of the centre of London.—The state of the atmosphere affects in a greater or less degree all the inhabitants.—I should think that not ten per cent. of the inhabitants of Leeds enjoy full health." At the same time he asserts, "The lungs, however, suffer much less from the air of towns than we should expect. Brouchial affections, indeed, are common, but other acute diseases of the chest, as pleurisy and consumption of the lungs, are, I think, neither so frequent nor so severe as in the agricultural districts. Cases of consumption also are not comparatively numerous, nor is their progress so rapid in smoky towns as in the purer air of the country and the mountains. I speak of the *general* atmosphere of towns, &c." p. 14, 15.

local circumstances which are accounted for by the operation of particular causes, and which by no means affect the general atmospheric character of the district. There is a perceptible difference in its temperature. In the east, where the vallies expand into the the great level of the Ouse, and the elevation of the ground gradually declines, the temperature is considerably higher than in the west, where the cold blasts and the frequent tempestuous winds from the central chain of English mountains, keep the air in a state of almost incessant agitation, which is indubitally favourable to its general salubrity and purity.

Almost every description of soil is discoverable in this district, from deep strong clay and rich loam, to the poorest peat and the most unprofitable sand. While the vallies display exuberant fertility, while the high cultivation of the vicinity of the towns attests both the industry and the opulence of the inhabitants, and while extensive tracts of excellent farming land are found in other situations, a large proportion of the surface of the district would never have been inclosed, on account of its almost hopeless sterility, had it not been for the immense increase of the population, and the consequent demand for agricultural produce. If, however, this district cannot boast of fertility as its uniform characteristic, it contains the elements of inexhaustible wealth and of indefinite extension of manufacture, in the vast quantity of excellent coal, which is easily procured in almost all its territorial divisions, and without which, its other natural advantages would have been altogether inadequate to the progress of its commercial prosperity and the employment of its crowded inhabitants.* Besides the inestimable veins of coal, the district abounds with valuable stone, some adapted merely for the composition of roads, some for the slating and roofing of houses, some for the paving and flagging of streets, some for the more dignified purposes of useful and ornamental architecture, and some for the

* See this subject discussed in Chapter IV. We purposely avoid a Geological Description of this district. It is inconsistant with our object, and would necessarily occupy too much of our space. We may be permitted to observe, that such a description, the result of accurate scientific observation, and published as a separate work, is a great desideratum. It may be remarked that the Geological Descriptions of the West Riding which have recently been published, are for the most part copied from an excellent, though very brief original article upon the subject, printed eleven years ago, in Baines's History, Directory, and Gazetteer of the County of York.

massy and colossal edifices, intended to resist the effects of the weather and the influence of running water, such as the towers and spires of churches, the piers of bridges, the sides of locks, and the walls of wharfs and docks. The Bramley Fall and the Park Spring stone in particular, has long possessed a high and a merited celebrity; though easily worked when taken from the quarry, it continually indurates by exposure to the air, and becomes almost incorrodible by time; and immense quantities of it are conveyed down the river Aire, to be exported to London and the most distant provinces of the kingdom.

It is unnecessary, and would be preposterous, to specify the productions of the district to its own inhabitants, or to describe its agricultural system to those who are actively engaged in carrying it on. In the manufacturing portion, but little attention is paid to scientific agriculture, but in the other part of the district every improvement in the mode of cultivating the soil is adopted and pursued which ingenuity can invent, or industry accomplish, or capital apply. A greater quantity of wheat than of any other grain is raised, oats are cultivated to a very considerable extent, barley is less frequently grown, and rye is not often seen. Peas and beans are not produced in any large quantities, but the turnip husbandry generally prevails, although, according to the testimony of those who are versed in the subject, the cultivation of that valuable root is not commonly attended to with the care which is devoted to it in some other parts of the kingdom. Clover is sown much less in this district than in any other part of the county. The flax, the rape, the woad, and the teazles of the east, and the liquorice and other peculiar vegetation of the south, are not comprehended in the productions of the district. In the woods and the hedgerows, a valuable supply of oak and ash timber is afforded; but planting, on account of the distant period at which remuneration is obtained, is neither frequently adopted nor systematically pursued, upon an extensive scale. Few peculiarities are observable in the animals of this division of Yorkshire. The horses, of which scarcely any are bred for sale, are smaller than those of the North and East Ridings, but they are hardy, active, spirited and capable of enduring great fatigue; the horned cattle have no distinctive characteristics, the wants of the inhabitants are supplied in a great measure from the herds and droves of Craven and the north; and no observations are demanded by the breed of sheep, though

great attention has been occasionally devoted to the improvement of their race both for slaughter and for wool. The animals of the chace, though driven from the vicinity of the crowded towns and populous villages, are still numerous in the comparatively solitary agricultural division of the district, and especially so in some of the preserved and well wooded domains environing the houses of the nobility and gentry. It is a curious fact that the wild animals of the forest were not extinct in this district until a period long posterior to what is generally supposed; satisfactory proofs have been discovered of their existence at the commencement of the fourteenth century; it is stated that the last of the destructive and formidable race of wild boars in this vicinity was killed in a hunt by John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, and one of the sons of Edward III. A public house recently built on the new road from Leeds to Pontefract, and on the hill above Oulton, called John o' Gaunt Inn, preserves the memorial of the transaction.

We now hasten to describe the rivers of the district; and since their numerous tributaries will be pointed out in their respective localities in subsequent portions of these volumes, we confine our attention in this introduction to the three principal streams. On its northern front, our district is touched by the Wharf, which rises in the hills above Oughtershaw; runs by Deepdale, Buckden, Starbottom, Kettlewell, Conistone, Burnsall, Barden Tower, Bolton Abbey, Ilkley, Otley, Harewood, Wetherby, Tadcaster, and joins the Ouse from York at Nun Appleton. Concerning the derivation of the name, and the character of the stream, it will be sufficient to quote the description of old Camden. "If any one should be disposed to think its name strained from *Guer*, which signifies in British *Rapid*, he will find support in the stream itself, which rushes along with great rapidity and rage, dashing against innumerable numbers of stones, which it bears before it to the astonishment of beholders, especially when swollen by winter rains. In summer too it is very dangerous, as I found to my cost in my first tour to these parts."* This derivation of the name is confirmed by the mode in which it was anciently spelt, for we find it written not only as Wharf, but Gwarfe.† This river was venerated as a divinity by the Romans, no doubt in accommodation to a well known practice among the ancient

* Camden, iii. 6.

† Harrison's Description of Britain ap. Hollinshed.

Britons, a large altar having been found on its banks dedicated by a Roman officer to Verb-eia, the goddess nymph of the torrent.*

The Aire, or Are, which pervades the centre of the district, rises in Malham Cove, about five miles and a half north east of Settle; it takes the name of Aire a little below Malham, at the junction of Malham Tarn water and Gordale Beck; it flows by Gargrave and passes to Skipton, proceeds by Keighley and Bingley to Leeds, forms a junction with the Calder at Castleford, runs by Ferrybridge, Knottingley, Snaith, and Rawcliffe, and joins the Ouse below Armin, three miles south west of Howden. We extract the following account of this river, and of the derivation of its name, from the writings of the great antiquary just quoted.† "The Aire, rising at the bottom of Pennigent Hill, which lifts its head high among the western hills, sports immediately in so many meanders, as if it were doubtful whether to proceed directly back to its source, or forward to the sea, so that I crossed it seven times in half an hour in a straight line. It is calm and gentle, and glides along as if it hardly moved at all, from whence I imagine that it had its name, for we have already observed that the Britons call a slow and gentle stream Ara, whence the appellation of that slow river Arar in France had its origin." Spencer, in his well known distich, has alluded to the characteristics of both these rivers among others.

> Still Are, swift Wherfe, with Oze the most of might,
> High Swale, unquiet Nidd, and troublous Skell.

The Calder rises on the borders of Yorkshire and Lancashire, between Whalley and Todmorden, flows by the latter place, proceeds to Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge, Elland, Brighouse, Dewsbury, and Wakefield, and falls into the Aire at Castleford. The name Calder is either derived from the British Calai-dwr, a reedy water, or from another British term, Coldwr, a narrow water.‡

The vast system of internal navigation to which the Aire and Calder, more particularly, are rendered subservient, will be described at length in the fourth chapter of the present work.

It will be seen by a reference to our plan, that our introduction must necessarily be confined within far narrower limits than are usual in works of a similar character and of corresponding magnitude. The distinctive characteristics and peculiar dialect

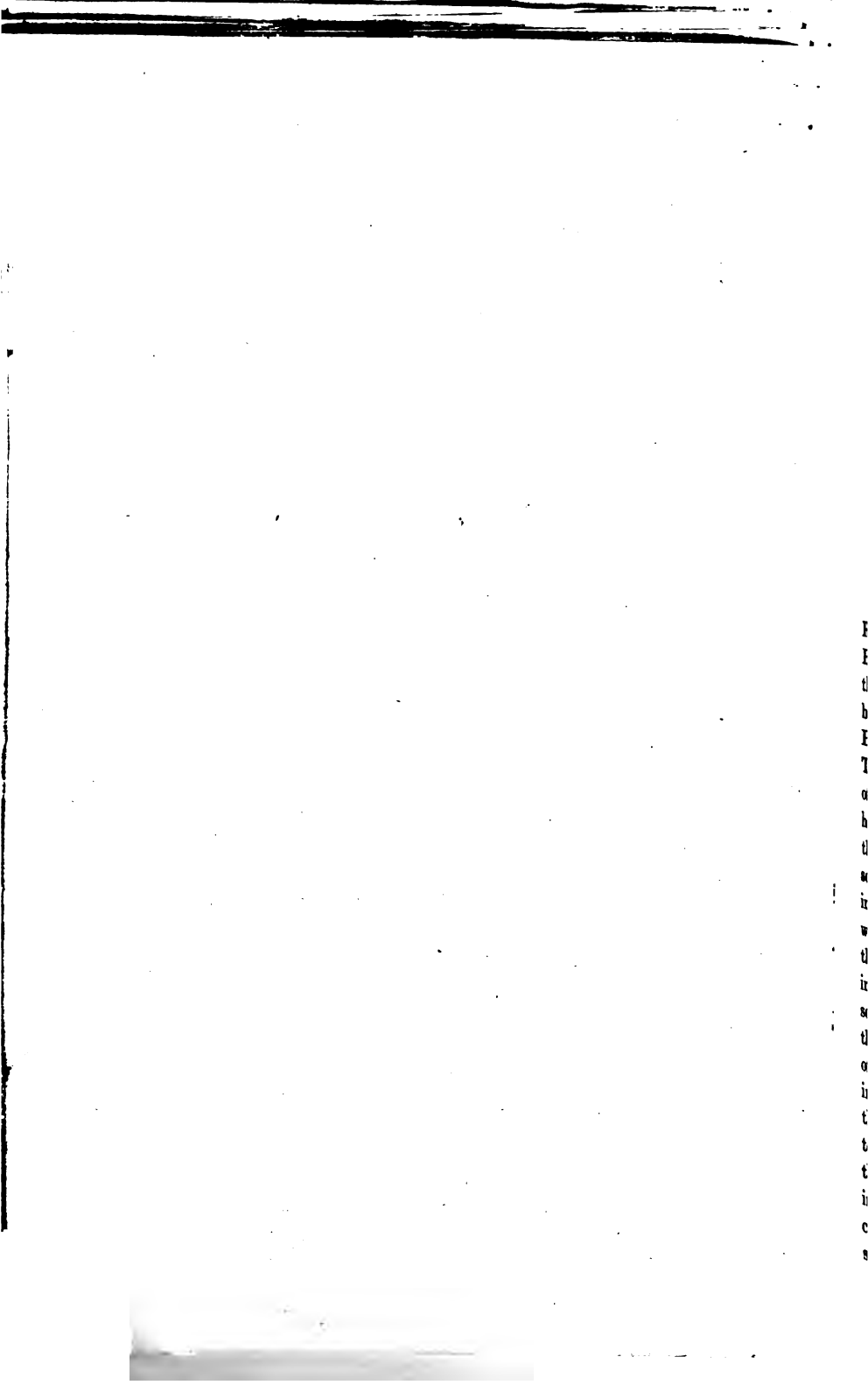
* Hist. Manchest. i. 193. † Gough's Camd. iii. 5. ‡ Hist. Whall. i. 9.

of the inhabitants—the comparative population and the general and local statistics of the district—the prices which commodities have born at different periods, and the ratio in which they have been produced and consumed—the relative condition of the operative, the mercantile, and the influential classes of the community—the wonderful system of manufactures and commerce, with the innumerable institutions which it has originated, and its multiform bearings upon social happiness, morals, and religion—all these, and many other interesting and truly momentous subjects, instead of being briefly, and, in point of fact, rather incidentally than directly considered in an introduction, will be discussed, as far as our prescribed space will allow, in the body of the work, together with those other topics which have been almost universally, but certainly improperly, regarded as the exclusive matters of topographical investigation.

The range of our work includes the principal part of the Wapentake of Skyrack, a large proportion of that of Agbrigg and Morley, and part of those of Osgoldcross and Barkstone Ash. The district comprises the parish of Leeds; the parish of Calverley; part of the parishes of Bradford, Guiseley, Otley, and Harewood; the parish of Addle; the parish of Bardsey; part of the parish of Collingham; the parish of Berwick in Elmete; the parish of Whitkirk; part of the parishes of Kippax, Swillington, Castleford, and Methley; the parish of Rothwell; the parish of Batley; the parish of Birstall; and part of the parishes of Wakefield, Dewsbury, and Sandal Magna.

The field is extensive—the materials are ample—the historic incidents are numerous—but the responsibility of the writer is great, and his undertaking is arduous. It is his intention first to give the General History of the district from the earliest period to the present times, and then to present the domestic history of each of the subordinate divisions, commencing with the parish of Leeds, then that of Calverley, then proceeding to each of the other places in regular order. The Ecclesiastical History of the district will then demand attention; and under this head it is the author's intention not to write as though the date of tombstones and the inscriptions of sepulchres were the principal objects of attention, but to pourtray remarkable characters, and to record distinguishing events, which have exercised a decisive influence upon piety and morality. In the Literary History, an immense variety of topics, of institutions, and of characters will

demand, and it is confidently asserted will repay, investigation. Upon the Commercial History, however, the deepest attention and the most assiduous labour will be bestowed. The manufacturing system of the district is its most prominent feature, its most remarkable characteristic; and to compose its history without especially directing to this particular the mind of the reader and the diligence of the author, would be the extreme of culpable negligence and absurdity. The History of Charities, Accounts of Distinguished Families, Descriptions of the principal Domestic Edifices, Miscellaneous Anecdotes, and Statistic Representations will follow, and the work will be closed by observations on the Present State of the District, and the Public Spirit, the Dialect, and the Character of its Inhabitants.



BOOK I.—CIVIL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL HISTORY.

§ 1. *British and Roman History.*

THE BRITONS.

Of the forty nations who inhabited Britain at the time of the Roman invasion, the most numerous and powerful was that of the Brigantes, whose possessions were bounded by the Tyne on the north and the Humber on the south, and who may therefore be regarded as the aboriginal population of the district. The Brigantes were far more barbarous than the southern Britons. The latter, indeed, were a perfectly different race, the descendants of the Goths, who, at a period long anterior to the Christian era, had obtained possession of the northern coasts of Gaul, where they received the name of Belgæ, and who soon occupied the southern counties of Britain, and drove the native inhabitants into the interior regions. By their intercourse with the strangers who resorted to their shores for the purpose of obtaining Tin, then the most important article of British commerce, they had been induced to adopt some foreign habits, and were furnished with some foreign commodities. Their habitations resembled those of the Gauls, they were decently and comfortably clothed in garments of their own manufacture, their assiduity and comparative skill in agriculture enabled them to raise a larger quantity of corn than they required for their own necessities, and they were accustomed to preserve the superfluity in rude caverns or granaries which they either discovered or constructed in the rocks. But the interior and the northern tribes had made no such approaches to civilization. To agriculture and manufactures they were total strangers, their wealth consisted in their flocks and herds, milk and

flesh were the principal articles of their food, and in their rude vestments of skins they defied the inclemencies of the weather.

To the character and habits of these primordial inhabitants of the district, various testimonies have been recorded by ancient historians. These writers have described their indomitable ferocity and intrepid bravery in battle—their hardy patience in the endurance of hunger, cold, and fatigue—their abject superstition, "worshipping" says Gildas, "diabolical monsters worse than those of Egypt, some of which, of most deformed appearance, are still to be seen, accompanied with every circumstance of their original horror"—their custom of tattooing their skin with the figures of animals—their skill in horsemanship, and their use of chariots in their contests, like the ancient heroes of the Trojan war—and their savage mode of life in their vast and inaccessible forests, which then covered almost the whole of the country. It appears that in distant times they were governed by kings, but that at the period of the invasion, they were so distracted by the conflicting parties and interests of different chiefs, that their total want of unanimity and their bloody intestine feuds, rendered them an easy prey to Roman discipline and power.

It is contended that Leeds, in the time of the ancient Britons, was a place of considerable eminence and importance; that in fact it was one of the twenty eight cities mentioned by Nennius, which had their origin from the Britons, and only their improvement from the Romans.* That Leeds was the Caer Loid Coit, or *city in the mood*, of Nennius, seems more than probable. But what were called British cities were undeserving of the pompous name. "The towns of the Britons," says Cæsar, "were inaccessible woods, fortified by ditches and ramparts;" thus "forests served them for cities; they cut down a number of trees to inclose a large circle, within which they erected huts and stalls for their cattle, which were not designed for continued use."† No great accession of dignity then can accrue to Leeds, even were it demonstrated to have been a British city. It consisted only of a rude fortification of earth and trees, to preserve the herds from the destructive ravages of predatory animals, and its savage human inmates from

* Nennius, an ancient British Historian, was Abbot of Bangor, and, from his works, must have flourished in the ninth century. His remaining work here alluded to, is entitled Historia Britonum, or Eulogium Britanniæ, printed in Gale's Hist. Brit. Script. Oxon 1691. See Thoresby's Ducat Leod. Pref. ix.

† Cæs. Bell. Gall. v. 21 Strab. iv.

the sudden assaults of their fellow barbarians; it might in a few hours be overturned by the tempest, or consumed by the flames; in a few years its traces would totally disappear, and its site would remain without any thing to distinguish it from the surrounding wilds of the interminable forest.

No memorials of the ancient British inhabitants now remain in this part of the country, with the exception of a few names of places and rivers. On the hill in the vicinity of Horsforth and Rawden, which still retains its British appellation of Billinge, was found fifty one years since, a Torques or British chain of pure gold, "perfectly plain, and consisting of two rods not quite cylindrical, but growing thicker towards the extremities, and twisted together."* Its intrinsic value was eighteen pounds sterling, and it was claimed by the lord of the manor. This relic may be regarded as one among the many proofs which might be adduced to shew, that the primeval inhabitants of this district, with all their barbarism, were not destitute of some degree of mechanical art. But their mode of working metals was most probably introduced only about the time of the Roman invasion, and the enthusiasm of antiquarianism itself can scarcely ascribe to an earlier period, the existence of golden ornaments, and silver or brazen coins.†

THE ROMANS.

More than a century elapsed from the first invasion of Britain by the Romans, before the final subjugation of the Brigantes was achieved. The intrepid though desultory valour of the Britons, and the civil wars which agitated the empire, retarded the progress of the conquerors; and it was not until the reign of Vespasian, that the country to the north of the Humber was reduced under their dominion. To the desperate resistance and invincible bravery of the Brigantes in their contest with the Romans, various interesting testimonies may be adduced. In the reign of Domitian they interrupted the pro-prætor Ostorius in the full career of victory; in the dirge sung at the funeral procession of the Emperor Claudius, "the azure armed Brigantes" were deemed worthy of distinct mention; and the pen of Tacitus has magnified the glory of their subduction.‡ Petilius Cerealis was the military A. D. 75.

* Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete, p 211, 212.

† Whit. Hist. of Manchester, b. i, c. ix, § i.

‡ Tacit. Vit. Agric. c. xviii. Camden's Brit. Introd. p. 40.

commander who reduced the Brigantes to the condition of subjects, and the imperial authority was completely established among the valiant barbarians by the power and policy of Agricola. A complete change was rapidly effected in the manners and character of the vanquished people. The language, the customs, and the civilization of Rome were speedily introduced and adopted; the independent spirit of the nation evaporated and disappeared; and England became a valuable, a submissive, and a peaceable province of the empire. This astonishing revolution has been described in the following terms by the greatest of Roman historians. "They who a little while before, disdained the language, now affected the eloquence of Rome; this produced an esteem for our dress, and the toga came into general use; by degrees they adopted our vicious indulgences, porticoes, baths, and splendid tables—this among those uninformed people was called cultivation, whereas in fact it was only an appendage of slavery."*

The condition of the conquered Brigantes and of the Britons in general, under the despotism of the Romans, was at first extremely calamitous and deplorable. "The yoke," says Camden, in the quaint but expressive language of his age, "was first imposed upon Britain by garrisons, who always kept the inhabitants in awe, levying taxes and tributes on their estates, for the public sale of which they were forced to have publicans, i. e. harpies and leeches who sucked their blood—and they raised contributions even in the names of the dead. Nor were they (the Britons) allowed the exercise of their own laws, but magistrates were sent over from Rome to administer justice by commission and with severity. The prætor held a yearly court, and determined greater causes, promulgating his haughty decisions from a lofty tribunal, surrounded with lictors, threatening the people's backs with rods and their necks with axes, and every year compelling them to receive a new master. Not contented with this, they (the Romans) fomented quarrels among them, and showed peculiar indulgence to some, to make them their instruments to enslave others.†

The Roman government in Britain was vested in a Prætor, who possessed the whole administrative, judicial, and military power; a Quæstor, or Procurator, arranged the affairs of revenue and taxation; and a numerous army of legionaries and auxiliaries

* Tacit. ab. sup. † Gough's Camden, 1, xlvi.

secured the obedience of the people, and protected the country from foreign invasion. Of the provinces into which Roman Britain was divided, Maxima Cæsariensis was the name imposed upon that included between the Mersey and the Humber on the south, and the Tyne and the Eden on the north, and the eastern and western seas. Of this province, therefore, our district formed a part. In the reign of Constantine, both the form of government and the territorial divisions were changed. Britain was placed under the jurisdiction of the Prefect of Gaul; his deputy resided at York, and was called the Vicar of Britain; his subordinates were the Consulars of Valentia and Maxima, and the Presidents of Flavia, Britannia Prima, and the Britannia Secunda. The superintendence of the army was committed to three Dukes; the first commanded from the northern frontier to the Humber; the second, with the title of Count of the Saxon shore, had the command of the troops on the coast from the Humber to Land's End; and the third commanded the other garrisons in the interior. The Roman Towns or Posts were divided into four classes —the *Colonies*, the habitations of the veterans who were rewarded with the lands of the conquered nations; of these there were nine in Britain, but not one of them was seated in Yorkshire—the *Municipia*, were the next in importance; their inhabitants possessed the title of Roman citizens, and exercised the privilege of enacting their own laws and choosing their own magistrates; of these there were only two in the whole island, at Verulam and York. The *Latian Cities* were the third in order, and their inhabitants had the right of choosing their annual magistrates, who on their resignation of their office claimed and enjoyed the freedom of Rome; ten towns possessed this dignity, of which Cambodunum, or Slack near Huddersfield, was the only one in the West Riding of this county. The last were the *Stipendiary Towns*, whose inhabitants, unlike those of the former, were not exempt from the payment of the imperial tribute, and which therefore ranked the lowest in dignity. Of the latter there were several in Yorkshire.

Although the History of the district now under review, has no connexion with the most stupendous monuments of Roman policy and industry, the mighty fortifications or walls which were erected on the frontiers of the province and stretched from sea to sea, to defend the more fertile districts of the south from the desolating incursions of the fierce and necessitous savages of Caledonia, it

yet involves a reference to a great number of interesting civil and military remains, which must now be rapidly described to the reader.

The ROMAN ROADS first claim attention. From the Golden Pillar which stood in the Forum of Rome, on which were inscribed the distances of the great cities of Italy and the empire, and which from these two circumstances was denominated *Milliarium Aureum*, the Roman roads proceeded to the most distant frontiers of the vast dominions of the Cæsars, "intersecting the immensity of their empire, from the borders of Persia to the Orcades, from the Tanais to the Nile, and opening a free communication through all the regions of the civilized world."* Four of these great roads traversed Britain, Watling-street, Hermen-street, the Fosse, and Icknild-street.† Besides these main roads, there were a great many vicinal branches, and others which crossed the principal ways at nearly right angles. The cross roads were media of communication between the grand ways, and their line was generally made as short as possible to save both trouble and expense. The construction of the vicinal branches and cross roads, was neither so strong nor so durable, so effective nor so magnificent, as that of the great Viæ Stratæ, and for this reason they have been generally ruined and lost.‡

The Roman roads through the district within ten miles of Leeds, which can still occasionally be traced with considerable accuracy were, 1. the road from Danum (Doncaster) through what is called Pontefract Park, to Legeolium, or Lagecium (Castleford) to Calcaria (Tadcaster) and thence to Eboracum (York). 2. The road from Calcaria, through Cambodunum (Slack) to Mancunium (Manchester), traversed the centre of Leeds in a line a little to the east of Briggate, and its line is traceable in the neighbourhood of Morley and Gildersome. The road from Calcaria to Mancunium, after Cambodunum was abandoned, passed, as we shall presently see, through Cleckheaton, where the remains of a Roman town have been discovered. 3. A road from Castle-

* Eustace's Class. Tour, ii, 182.

† Acccording to Horseley, Watling-street proceeded from Richborough, in Kent, through London to Chester, thence to York and thence to Carlisle. Hermen-street, from London to Lincoln and Wintringham—the Fosse, from Bath to Lincoln—and Icknild-street from Caister in Norfolk, through Colchester, to London.—Horseley's Britannia Romana, p. 317.

‡ Horseley ubi supra.

ford, ran through Addle or Adel, towards Olicana (Ilkley). Of these roads the first was undoubtedly one of the Viæ Stratæ, and is supposed by some to have been a continuation of Hermen-street;* the second may have been Watling-street in its line from Chester to York; and the third, though merely a vicinal way, must, from the character of the settlements it united, have been of considerable importance.† That these lines of road should still be traceable after the lapse of more than fourteen centuries, is by no means wonderful, when we consider the consummate skill with which they were constructed, and the durability of the materials of which they were composed. Generally raised to a considerable elevation above the adjacent ground, they were not strictly speaking paved, but flagged, and were often composed of vast blocks of stone, neither hewn nor shaped by art, but fitted together in their original form. When hewn stones were used, they were cut into masses of two, of three, or more feet square, and were placed together without any cement, yet so closely connected, as to appear rather a continued rock than an artificial combination, and to have resisted both the influence of time and the friction of the enormous loads which have passed over them, in a manner altogether inconceivable.‡

Among the ROMAN STATIONS§ in this district the most important was undoubtedly LEGEOLIUM or *Lagecium*, which occupied the site of the modern Castleford. Of this place Leland says, "one shewed me there a garth by the church yard, where many strange things of foundation have been found, and he said that there had been a castle, but it was rather some manor place."‖ It was in the direct line of march from Calcaria to Mancunium; and from this central station the Roman soldiers proceeded to occupy the country between the Aire and the Wharf. The

* The learned Stukeley expressly calls this road the Hermen-street. Iter Boreal. p. 76.

† The word *Street* as indicative of a Roman Road (from *Stratum*) is still in use in this district. The Street near Morley, Gildersome-street, and Street-lane and Street-houses on the moors near Shadwell.

‡ Eustace ii, 182. Thoresby's Ducat. 159. Horseley ubi supra.

§ The peculiar situation of all the Roman stations in this district deserves observation; they were all placed on the southern slope of a hill or bank. This observation applies only to their *regular* stations. Of their *castra æstiva* or summer camps, few traces can be discovered.

‖ Leland i, 46. Gough's Cam. iii, 46.

place where the Roman fort stood is a little above the waterfall, and the stones are still left, though the milldam lays them too deep under the water for distinct observation. From the fort the road passed up the bank on the east side of the church, and forward in a right line through the field. A field south of the church was long called the Castle Garth, and was indubitably part of the site of the town or city, the Castrum having been stationed on the ground now occupied by the church, which was probably in part built out of its ruins. The line of the ditch that surrounded it can still be traced. The position of this station at the confluence of the Aire and Calder was equally convenient and commanding; the luxuriant fertility of the beautiful country surrounding it, insured a plentiful supply of provisions; and there is every reason to believe, that the settlement was distinguished by extent, population, and magnificence. It is remarked by Dr. Whitaker* as a curious circumstance, that while immense numbers of Roman coins have been found at this place, not "a single altar nor even a sepulchral inscription has been discovered."†

Proceeding northwest from Castleford, we discern the traces of the Roman Road from Legeolium to Olicana, on the moor near Whitchurch; a little further on, the name of Street-lane, and the indications of the ground, point out the same Via Vicinalis; at Hawcaster Rig near Chapeltown, a Castrum is denoted by the name of place; and the Tunnel Shaw Hill, a remarkable eminence overlooking a considerable tract of country, was justly concluded by Thoresby to have been a station for the Roman Exploratores, or Speculatores.‡ At Addle innumerable indications of a Roman station, probably connecting Legeolium with Olicana, have been found. The Castrum of this place, called in the Doomsday Survey§ Burgduru, and probably, if not certainly in Roman times BURGODUNUM, was on the hill north of Addle; and when the neighbouring common was thrown into cultivation, and the ground was consequently turned up, numerous and incontrovertible traces of a town were perceived on the east side of

* Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete, p. 262.

† Of the Roman altars, coins, &c. which have been found in this district, we give no specific description. Such a description would interest only the antiquary, and would be useless and tedious to the general reader. We have indeed no room for such a description.

‡ Ducat. p. 138.

§ Doomsday Book by Bawdwen, 85, Antiq. in Ducat. 106, Camden's Brit. by Gough, iii, 44.

the Castrum. The remains of the town were first discovered by a farmer, who found his progress in ploughing retarded by masses of stone, which proved upon examination to have been the foundation of houses; the line of a street was soon distinctly traced, and numerous vestiges of other streets and buildings have since been disclosed. From the abundant fragments of statues, pillars, fluted glass, and inscriptions, from the three altars, the querns and other antique articles, which were subsequently obtained from the ruins, this place must at one time have been very extensive, and must have possessed considerable consequence. A curious fact is recorded by Thoresby concerning one of these remnants of antiquity, which strikingly displays the prevalence of abject superstition among the inhabitants of this part of the country, so late as the close of the seventeenth century. "There was dug up in stone," in lively style that excellent writer relates, "the full proportion of a Roman officer, with a large inscription, both of which perished by the worse than brutish ignorance and covetousness of the labourers, who in a superstitious conceit, bound wythys or wreaths of straw about the poor knight, and burnt him in hopes of finding (I know not by what magical apparition in the smoke) some hid treasure, and after, in anger at their disappointment, broke him in pieces; of which only the head is now remaining."* It has been supposed by the style of some of the inscriptions, that this town or city flourished in the age of the Emperor Severus.

That there was a Roman station at LEEDS, on the road from Calcaria to Cambodunum, is unquestionable. On Wallflat near Quarry Hill, a name in its derivation certainly referring to a Roman fortification,† the outline of a Castrum was formerly distinctly observable, but every trace of it is now completely obliterated by the great alterations which have been made in the appearance of the ground, and the numerous buildings which have been erected on its site. The fact that Leeds was a Roman settlement, has been confirmed by other circumstances. In 1745, between Wallflat and the principal street of the town, a Roman urn was found containing a British celt; and in digging a cellar,

* Ducat. 159.

† The Roman word Vallum is retained in this name Wallflat. The Latins formerly pronounced the consonant V as W. And the Saxon adjunct, by its signification, refers to a plot of ground devoted to the purposes of war. Ducat. 104.

in what a few years ago was called the Back of the Shambles, now a part of Briggate, an ancient pavement strongly cemented was discovered. The conjecture of the learned continuator of Thoresby, that there was a Roman Trajectus nearly on the site of the present bridge at Leeds,* has, since the publication of his valuable work, been proved to be well founded. As some workmen in constructing a new basin or dock, were excavating a plot of ground in Dock-street, on the banks of the Aire, and at some distance eastwards of the bridge, they not only discovered appearances which induced the conclusion that the course of the river was formerly a little to the south of its present bed, but they found part of a Roman ford, composed of a substance known only to that people, wonderfully hard and compact, and calculated to resist the destructive action of water for a long series of ages. Further observations demonstrated that this ford crossed the river pretty nearly in a line with the east corner of the new corn warehouses belonging to the Aire and Calder Company, and from thence the road probably proceeded to the south, in a right line by the front of the theatre, and the palisading of Salem Chapel.†

The ruins of a Roman town were detected some years since at CLECKHEATON; these remains, though of a character sufficiently decisive, do not merit a specific description in this brief record; the town itself may be safely considered as one of the stations on the great road from Calcaria to Mancunium.

March 31, 1821. At Lingwell Gate, near WAKEFIELD, it seems highly probable that the Romans had a mint for the casting of the coin required by the payment of the soldiers. Twelve years ago a great number of clay moulds were turned up by a ploughman, in which the coin had been cast, and four crucibles in which the metal had been melted. Similar antiquities have occasionally been found on the same site during the space of a hundred years. The most important remains in his vicinity have, however, been discovered at a place called Wakefield Outwood, in the township of Stanley. In 1822 a piece of Roman pottery was disclosed in digging up a field, filled with an immense quantity of copper coins of Constantine the Great, of

* Loidis and Elmete, p. 88.

† At the same time were found three large oak trees, decayed and as black as charcoal, and one quite sound at the heart. The men found also evident traces of a goit, and large quantities of piles or stakes were discovered on each side of the course of the water, inducing the opinion stated in the text that the river formerly flowed in this direction.

his sons Constans, Constantius, and Crispus, and of Licinius and Maxentius. This circumstance, combined with the facts, that scattered coins have often been found at the same spot, and that a sunken military road has been discovered in the neighbourhood, appear decisive in proving that a considerable Roman station, perhaps connecting Danum with Cambodunum, formerly existed at this place.

The traces of Roman roads, and the remains of Roman cities with which this district has been thus demonstrated to abound, are by no means to be solely considered as the objects of antiquarian curiosity and interest, but as indications of the general character and manners of the wonderful people by whom those roads were constructed, and those cities were reared. They furnish impressive memorials of the ruthless ambition and territorial cupidity of the Romans, in conquering the countries whose inhabitants had sufficient patriotism and courage to resist their unprincipled encroachments; they testify to Roman obstinacy in retaining and to Roman policy in colonizing, the regions which Roman valour had acquired—and they shew that the Romans, in whatever circumstances placed, and in whatever provinces settled, never lost their military character, never abandoned their military habits, and maintained, as they had established, their government, at the point of the sword. What were these towns and stations of which we have been writing, but so many colonies of soldiers, and fortified posts, the strong holds of military despotism? And for what purpose did they construct these magnificent roads, whose shattered fragments still excite the astonishment of the observer, but to provide facilities for military communication, and to enable their mercenery legionaries to rivet the fetters of slavery, to stifle opposition to their will, and to crush rebellion in its bud? A celebrated writer and a profound admirer of the character and policy of the Romans, has exclaimed on adverting to their works and roads—"These are monuments which no other nation has left behind—monuments not of taste and art only, but of wisdom and benevolence, which claim not merely our admiration but our gratitude, and rank their authors among the best benefactors of mankind."* We add in contradiction to these splendid assertions, that as far as Britain is concerned, they are monuments of injustice, of tyranny, and of cruelty. At what expense, and by what agency were these works accomplished in our district, whose mouldering

* Eustace's Class. Tour. iii. 154.

and grass grown remains conduct the imagination to scenes and to nations long since passed away? Let Tacitus answer the question, That historian declares,* that "the Britons complained that the Romans wore out their bodies and hands in fortifying woods and marshes, accompanying their blows with insults." The fact is, that whatever the superstructure may have been, the foundations of Roman power in Britain were "cemented with tears and with blood;" the wretched natives were made the instruments of erecting their own dungeon in the dwelling place of their masters; and many a victim was sacrificed, and many a generation was destroyed, before despotism had finished its sanguinary work, and power had completed what tyranny had begun.

It further appears by the fragments which have been discovered in this district, that the Romans incorporated into their mythology the deities of the ancient Brigantes, as though there were still some empty niches in their Pantheon, and as though even at this advanced period of their history, they had not idols enough of their own. One of their altars, obtained near Addle, has been ascribed to Brigantia, and the tutelar deity or deities of the same British people, have been found commemorated in other remains. Perhaps in this case, policy combined with superstition. The Romans might have been desirous of conciliating the idolatrous prejudices of the nations they subdued, and thus of buttressing the fabric of their despotism. In this instance, their conduct resembled that of some of the papal propogandists in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, who endeavoured to obtain the suffrages of their heathen auditors in favour of what they were pleased to designate Christianity, by the incorporation of some of the popular superstitions with the theological and ritual system which they advocated and proclaimed.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the probable condition of this district under the Romans. Whatever may have been the tyranny and injustice of their proceedings to the aboriginal inhabitants immediately after the conquest of the island, it is certain that they endeavoured by all possible means to increase the productiveness of the province, and to render it a most valuable integral part of their empire.† From the numerous remains of

* Tacit. Vit. Agric. c. 19.

† The endeavours of the Romans to accomplish this object were crowned with signal success. One of their orators in a panegyric addressed to Constantius, thus apostrophizes Britain. "O fortunate Britain!.....Nature justly

Roman towns and Roman roads which this district contains, it may be reasonably concluded that its population must have been very considerable; it no doubt participated in the general prosperity of the island from the age of Severus to that of Julian the Apostate; that the natural resources of the country were carefully cultivated, is evident from the immense quantities of corn which were exported to supply the necessities of the continental provinces; nor did the usurpations of aspiring chieftains, who attempted amidst the convulsions of the empire to establish an independent sovereignty in Britain, involve any of the desolating calamities which are inseparable from civil war. This district also must have derived no inconsiderable advantages from its propinquity to York, which was honoured by the especial patronage and occasional residence of some of the Emperors, which was the great centre of their power, and the principal emporium of their opulence.*

But upon the decline of the Roman empire, the scene was awfully reversed. The ferocious hordes of the Scots and Picts extended their ravages over the whole country; and though they were repeatedly driven back beyond the wall to their wild forests and bleak mountains, yet when the Roman soldiers were withdrawn, and when the flower of the British youth were removed to defend the continental provinces of the empire, the barbarians repassed the ineffectual fortifications of the north, and speedily transformed a fruitful province into a desolate wilderness. William of Malmesbury thus pathetically delineated the calamities of his country. "After the tyrants had left none but half barbarians in the country, and none but debauched wretches in the cities, Britain, bereft of all the defence of youthful vigour, devoid of all the cultivation of the arts, was long exposed to the fury of the neighbouring nations. The Scots and Picts presently repeating

bestowed upon thee all the advantages of air and soil—with thee neither the cold of winter nor the heat of summer is excessive—in thee are produced such plentiful harvests as to serve the purposes both of Ceres and Bacchus—thy woods harbour no wild beasts, thy soil no noxious serpents. Innumerable are thy herds and flocks, with distended udders and loaded fleeces, &c." And in another panegyric at an earlier period, Britain is extolled as "so fruitful in corn, so well supplied with pasture, so rich in mines, so profitable for revenues, so furnished with harbours, and of so great an extent." Cam. Brit. In. xi. Drake's Hist. and Antiq. of York. 46.

* Drake's Hist. and Antiq. of York, 17, 18, 68, et alter. freq.

their inroads, numbers of people were slaughtered, towns burnt, cities rased, and almost the whole country was wasted with fire and sword. The islanders thrown into the utmost perplexity, thinking any measure safer than coming to a battle, part of them seeking security in flight, betook themselves to the mountains, part of them buried their treasures (great quantities of which are discovered in this age) and made the best of their way to Rome to implore assistance." The miseries of hostile aggression were aggravated by intestine anarchy. In every part of the country petty chieftains exercised an ephemeral authority without individual power or general union; and letting alone the fury of the Caledonian invaders, depopulation, ignorance, and barbarism must have speedily followed in the train of those incessant internal conflicts, which almost every district witnessed. The reader will form some conception of this wretched condition of the country, and of the share which this district must have realized in the general depression, when he is informed that no less than three phantoms of states or kingdoms were erected in Deira and Bernicia alone.*

* Carte's Hist. Eng. i. 188. Turner's Hist. of the Anglo Saxons, i. 211, 212. Bernicia was a name given to that part of the Roman province north of the Tyne, and Deira to that part of it between the Tyne and the Humber. The name Deira was afterwards limited to the district which now forms the East Riding of Yorkshire.

SECTON II. SAXON HISTORY.

THE Saxons filled the cup of British misery to the brim. These terrible and invincible barbarians, whose prowess and fury have been described by a contemporary Christian bishop,* whose fearful ravages have been recorded by a pagan historian,† and whose formidable valour has been celebrated by a Roman emperor,‡ became the cruel oppressors of the people they professed to assist; and the Angles, one of their most active and victorious tribes, have permanently imposed their name upon the fairest, the most extensive, and the most valuable portion of the island. With the general transactions of these invaders and conquerors, this work has no connexion; the district, however, which forms the subject of its investigations, was the scene of one of the most important and interesting events in their annals—an event which merits a particular description.

Ælla, an Anglian chieftain, at the head of a band of hardy and resolute followers, obtained possession of Deira, to which Bernicia was afterwards added, and the kingdom constituted by this union, received the general appellation of Northumbria. Edwin, the son of Ælla, was driven from his paternal dominions by Eldifrid his brother in law, and found a refuge at the court of Redwald King of East Anglia, who determined to restore the exile to his throne. He succeeded; Edwin resumed his sceptre, and one of his royal residences was placed at Osmundthorp, the remains of which will shortly be described. Edwin was the first Christian monarch of Northumbria; he was the most magnificent and renowned prince of his age; on all public occasions, the Tufa, or Saxon emblem of sovereignty over the whole island, was carried before him with great solemnity; and such was the vigour of his administration, and so effective his system of police, that, according to Bede, "in his days a woman with a babe at her breast, might have travelled through his dominions without suffering an insult." This great monarch was defeated and killed at Hatfield near

A. D. 560.

A. D. 633.

* Sidonius. † Ammianus Marcellinus. ‡ Julian the Apostate.

Doncaster, by Penda king of Mercia, a ruthless pagan barbarian, the terror of the country and the age, who had imbrued his hands in the blood of three Saxon princes. Osric and Eanfrid the successors of Edwin were slain by their enemies soon after their accession; and Oswald, who followed them on the throne, and whose reign is celebrated as the epoch of the final establishment of Christianity among the Northumbrians, like Edwin fell before the sword of Penda.

The inveterate hatred which this sanguinary warrior cherished against the Northumbrians, was rendered still more relentless and malignant by an event which occurred in the reign of Oswio, or Oswy, the brother and successor of Oswald. Peada, the son of Penda, on a visit to the Northumbrian court, had contracted a vehement affection for the daughter of Oswio; and by her influence had been induced to abandon the senseless idolatries of his ancestors, and to embrace Christianity. Penda concealed his vindictive animosity until he was fully prepared to exact a terrible revenge; at the age of eighty he led his veteran Mercians into Northumbria, with the diabolical resolution of exterminating the whole population, without any distinction of age, of rank, or of sex. Oswio found his offers of submission and tribute rejected with disdain; he assembled his army; he advanced to meet his infuriated enemy; and the night before the contest, he solemnly vowed, that if he were rendered victorious by the blessing of heaven, he would devote his infant daughter Elfleda to the celibacy of a religious,
A. D. 655. or rather of a conventual, life. The battle was fought on Winmoor (Winwaedfield) near Seacroft; Penda was totally defeated; the hoary barbarian with many of his vassal princes was slain; and according to the testimony of Bede, who was born within twenty years after the event, more of the Mercians were drowned, as they fled, in the river Winwaed,* then overflowing its banks, than had fallen by the swords of the Northumbrians. "Thus," says the historian, "the awful decree of Providence was executed; the vaunting dethroner of kings with thirty commanders perished before an enemy whose greatest strength they had subdued, and whose present feebleness they had despised." The memory of

* In spite of Dr. Whitaker's scepticism, the river Winwaed appears to have been the Aire, to the banks of which the fugitives were pursued by the victors. The Went, which he would identify with the Winwaed, is an insignificant brook, rather than a river, and could not have caused the destruction spoken of by Bede.

this decisive victory was long preserved among the Saxons in one of their proverbs, and it was said, "in Winwaed's stream was revenged the death of Anna, the deaths of Sigebert and Egeric, of Edwin and Oswald." Oswio, according to the superstitious spirit of the times, fulfilled his vow by committing his daughter to the care of St. Hilda abbess at Hartlepool, and afterwards at Whitby.* This battle of Winwaedfield, thus gained by Oswy, Bede says, "was equally advantageous to both nations, for the conqueror delivered his own people from the ravages of the pagans, and converted the Mercians to the Christian faith."†

The condition of this district under the later Northumbrian monarchs, must have been truly deplorable. The history of these phantoms of royalty is stained with crime and blood, and the whole country was a scene of confusion and carnage. Sanguinary revolutions, treasons, massacres, and murders, succeeded each other with a rapidity altogether unparalleled in the annals of the world. Fourteen kings in the space of one hundred years swayed the Northumbrian sceptre; seven of them were slain; six were driven into exile, and only one of them died in the peaceable possession of the throne. At length the Northumbrians acknowledged the supremacy of Egbert, and that monarch is gennerally accounted the first Saxon sovereign of England. A. D. 828.

Forty years after the acknowledgment of Egbert, this district was overwhelmed by a new tide of calamity. The Sea Kings, as they were called, issuing with their intrepid barbarians from the coasts of Scandinavia, the islands of the Baltic, and the peninsula of Jutland, had long been the scourge and the terror of the north. "Without territorial property, without any towns or visible nation, with no wealth but their ships, with no force but their crews, and with no hope but from their swords, the Sea Kings swarmed upon the boisterous ocean, visited like the fiends of vengeance every district they could approach, and maintained a fearful empire on that element whose impartial terrors seem to mock the attempt of converting it into kingdoms." Thesemonarchs of the tempest and the billow, were not however the only pirates who, at this dismal period in the history of Europe, covered the ocean; every Dane or Scandinavian of importance equipped ships,

* Bede Sax. An. iii. 24. Turner's Hist. of the Anglo Saxons, i, 295. Lingard, i, 103. Thoresby's Ducat. 148. Whitaker's Loid. and Elmete, iii, 3. Gough's Camden, iii, 45. † Bede apub Camb. iii, 5.

and roamed the sea to acquire property by force; and piracy was accounted the most honourable occupation, the best harvest of wealth, and was consecrated to public emulation by the examples of the most illustrious of the dead and of the living. Towards the close of the eighth century, these Danes or Northmen began to infest the coasts of Northumbria; and by plundering and
A. D. 794. burning the monastery of Landisfarn or Holy Island, they excited general alarm. But it was not until seventy years had elapsed from this demonstration of their fury, that they extended their incursions to the district now under review, and finally achieved the subjugation of Yorkshire.* To describe the disgraceful occasion of the introduction of their armies into this part of the country, and minutely to detail their progress to permanent conquest and settlement, are departments of historic narrative which do not belong to the present work. It must be sufficient to state, that Northumbria had revolted from Ethelred king of England; that it was divided between two factions and two kings, Osbert and Ella, who were inflamed with the most deadly animosity, and sought with rancorous malignity to accomplish each other's destruction. Osbert had shamefully insulted the wife of Bruern, a powerful Saxon Earl, and by the forcible gratification of a licentious passion, had introduced misery and disgrace into his family; Bruern invited the Danes to be the ministers of his vengeance; gladly they obeyed the summons; Hinguar and Hubba, two formidable chieftains, whose father Lodbroch had been slain in a descent upon the English coast, animated with the hope of plunder and the desire of revenge, assembled their followers; arrived before the city of York;
A. D. 867. vanquished and killed Osbert; took, sacked, and destroyed the metropolis of Northumbria, upon whose helpless inhabitants they inflicted the most shocking brutalities of cruelty and lust; and by the defeat and death of Ella, were enabled to extend their conquests without oposition from the Tyne to the Humber. That they had a permanent settlement in the neighbourhood of Leeds is evident from the remains of a Danish fortification at Giant's Hill near Armley, and similar indications in other places, demonstrate that the whole of the district was occupied by their troops. It appears that they intermarried with the Saxon inhabitants, that they speedily became naturalized in the country, and that their savage warriors in the course of a few years were

* Turner's Hist. of Ang. Sax. ii, 40.

amalgamated with the conquered population. The subjection of the Northumbrian Danes to the great Alfred, was rather nominal than real; their strength was increased by the arrival of successive reinforcements of their countrymen; and it required all the efforts of Athelstan, one of the most powerful and politic of the Saxon monarchs, and all the influence of one of the most splendid victories recorded in English History,* to extort from the factious barbarians the reluctant acknowledgment of his supremacy. In the reign of Edmund, the successor of Athelstan, they were again in arms; and we find two Danish monarchs in Northumbria, Anlaff, king of Deira, and Reginald, king of Bernicia. Edgar, however, signalized his reign by the subjugation of the province; he degraded it from the rank of a kingdom to that of an earldom; he abolished the division of the country into Deira and Bernicia, and distributed its territories into Eurewickscire, Richmundescire, Lancastrescire, Coplande (Durham), Westmerilonde, Northumbrelonde, and Cumbrelonde.† But the Northumbrian Danes, though apparently subject to the Saxons, were still formidable; Edgar to secure their submission and conciliate their regard, allowed them to enact their own laws; and when in the reign of the cowardly, cruel, and contemptible Ethelred, a general massacre of their whole nation was ordered to be perpetrated on the festival of St. Brice, they were found to be too numerous in the northern provinces, and too completely incorporated with the whole population, to be destroyed.

A. D. 952.

Nov. 13, 1002.

Since the events which took place from the reign of Ethelred to the Conquest, however they may have influenced the general condition of the kingdom, have no particular reference to this district, we shall proceed to give a rapid description of the Saxon Antiquities which it contains, and which are as numerous, as interesting, and as distinct, as any other part of England, within similar limits, can present to the investigation of the Historian.

At Berwick in Elmete, are the remains of an immense Saxon fortification, which was probably one of the most extensive

* Gained at Brunanburg, or Bromford, in the East Riding, when Constantine king of Scotland, and five petty kings of Ireland and Wales, the allies of the Northumbrian Danes, were slain with many thousands of their men; and Anlaff the Danish chieftain or prince, was compelled to seek his safety in flight. Great difference of opinion has prevailed as to the situation of the place where this victory was gained. Vide Turner ii. 30.

† Turner's Ang. Sax. iii. 118. Drake's York. 85.

and formidable in the kingdom. Camden informs us, that in his day, these remains "were said to have been anciently a royal vill of the Northumbrian kings, which appears by the ruins to have been surrounded by walls." The reasoning by which Dr. Whitaker proves, that these are the remains, not of a vast granary of the Northumbrian kings, but of a royal residence itself, is highly satisfactory. This vast and truly wonderful fortification includes an area of thirteen acres; its circumference is nearly half a mile; and it consists of an irregular ellipse, with a keep separated from the body of the place by a ditch at one of the extremities. The mount of the keep is called Hall Tower Hill, probably from the fact that a manor house was erected upon it in a subsequent age. In the name which is still given to this fortification, Wendel Hill, the learned antiquary just quoted, thinks that he has discovered the name of Edwin,* the greatest of the Northumbrian kings, who as we have already seen was defeated and killed by Penda and the Mercians. It appears probable to the writer of this work, that this great fortification, after the battle which decided the fate of Edwin, was taken by the ruthless invaders, that it was captured after a desperate struggle, and that it was never afterwards occupied. That a most sanguinary contest took place on the spot, is evinced by a large quantity of human bones found some years since on the outside of the trench; but no particulars can be gleaned from history, sufficiently decisive to identify the event with any fact recorded in Saxon annals.

At Osmundthorp were formerly the fragments of very extensive Saxon erections. If Thoresby was mistaken in supposing that the fortification at Berwick inclosed a mere royal Northumbrian granary,† so Camden seems to have been mistaken in assigning to the same place (for so his words imply‡) the dignity of the Villa Regia of Bede. This honour may be safely concluded to belong to Osmundthorp. Upon some painted glass upon one of

* "The letter *d* is merely obtruded by a vicious pronunciation, and Hill is a modern addition made after the last original syllable of the word, by being melted down into the mass, ceased to be descriptive. Wenhill therefore remains. But by what likely process is Edwinhill to be obtained from Wenhill? By the same precisely, which in a similar instance, abbreviated from the beginning of the word, Ovinsford in the isle of Ely to its modern name Wensford." Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete, p. 152.

† Thoresby Ducat. 233. ‡ Camden ut sup.

the windows of the Old Hall, which was preserved when that edifice was demolished, was a representation of Edwin King of Northumberland, with a crown, a sword, and a shield. Upon the shield were exhibited the arms of the kingdom of East Anglia, by the assistance of whose monarch and troops, as we have related above, Edwin was restored from the condition of an exile to the possession of his crown. Although this painting is not earlier than the time of Henry VII., it proves that at that period it was believed most confidently that this was the actual site of Edwin's residence.* The fragments of extensive works which continued to the time of Charles I.; the pavements which have been turned up by the farmers; and the great trenches which were filled when the late hall was erected, combine to confirm this opinion. The attempt of Thoresby to identify the name of this place, formerly written Ossenthorp (in the Doomsday book it is Ossethorp) with Oswin the third king in order from Edwin, is unworthy of notice.

At GIPTON, Thoresby discovered the traces of a Saxon fortification "the out-trench whereof was 18 feet broad, the first camp about 100 feet long and 66 broad, the second 165 square—both were surrounded by a deep trench or rampire. The out camp was about 18 poles long and 12 broad, and at a little distance was a small outwork about four poles and a half square."† Of these works the writer has been unable to find any remains, and he concludes that since the time of Thoresby, they have completely disappeared.

* Whitaker arrives at the same conclusion by another ingenious argument. He says, Aug. 20, 1774, a gold coin of Justinian weighing 21 grains was found at this place. Now as it is yet a moot point, whether the Saxons had at that period any gold coins at all, and the quantity of that metal imported from abroad must have been extremely small, the fact of discovering a coin of Justinian at a place already reputed a royal palace of that very period, will not operate merely as the discovery of a guinea (before guineas became as rare as aurei of the Greek Emperors) proving, that is no fact, and strengthening no probability, but will add considerable weight to an opinion already supported by much external evidence. Whit. p. 138. The above extract is one of the most striking instances which can be found, of the amusing manner in which antiquarian enthusiasm can bolster up a favourite theory by the most insignificant circumstances. It must have required a great power of association, to connect the discovery of a single gold coin with the existence of a royal treasury.

† Ducat. 112.

At BARDSEY is another earthwork or remains of a castle evidently Saxon, from whose founder it is probable that the village derived its name. The form of this fortification is rather peculiar; the north east side of the outward bulwark forms nearly a right line, while an irregular semicircle incloses the remainder of the interior. An extensive inner work, which corresponds in form with the exterior, has a remarkable indentation on each of its longitudinal sides, the object of which it is scarcely possible to conjecture.

The Saxon remains at DEWSBURY are particularly interesting. That Dewsbury was the centre of a vast Saxon parish extending to the borders of Lancashire; that it was the scene of the energetic and successful labours of Paulinus, the apostle of the Northumbrians; are facts which will be illustrated in our Book on Ecclesiastical History. As an attestation of the latter circumstance, Camden mentions an ancient cross, which had been in existence before his time, but which appears either to have been lost or destroyed when he composed his celebrated work. His words are "I am informed that here was a cross, with this inscription, 'Paulinus hic prædicavit et celebravit,'* "Paulinus here preached, and administered the ordinances." Some unknown individual, desirous of perpetuating for Dewsbury the honours thus attributed to it by Camden, had a cross constructed according to his description, and placed upon it the inscription he has recorded. This cross was destroyed about twenty-one years ago. The Saxon antiquities now remaining at Dewsbury, consist of two stones, discovered when the external walls of the church were taken down in 1766. Upon these relics, several figures are sculptured; the most remarkable exhibits the Saviour in the act of bestowing his benediction. Part of a tomb also remains, the highest part or lid of which is shaped exactly like the roof of a house, with tiles regularly laid over each other, the side is adorned with waving lines, and the end with the figure of a cross.

At HERTSHEAD-CUM-CLIFTON in the same parish, is the base of a Saxon cross, four feet eight inches high, and two feet three at the top. It is wrought in the usual style with knots and scrolls, and has a cavity at the summit for the insertion of a shaft.

It is scarcely necessary to observe that these fragments of royal residences and vast fortifications, afford no decisive testimo-

* Gough's Camden, iii. 5.

nies to the manners, to the character, or to the social condition of the Saxons. That their agriculture was of the rudest description, that immense tracts of valuable land were under their administration, abandoned to savage unproductiveness, that their houses were generally speaking miserable hovels, and that the worst institutions of the feudal system flourished amongst them in full luxuriance, will be repeatedly demonstrated in the subsequent chapters of this work. To only one feature of their national character, do the remains of their works in this district testify—their sanguinary attachment to military contests. Their monuments in this vicinity are all memorials of war; and the observer cannot look upon their immense mounds and mighty fortifications without mentally referring to scenes of danger, turmoil, misery, and slaughter. Whatever honour may be attached to the names of some of their monarchs, whatever may have been the wisdom of some of their institutions, whatever may have been the reputation of some of their virtues, they were essentially a people factious because they were ignorant, vicious because they were superstitious, vindictive because they were oppressed, and cruel because they were uncivilized. History, it is true, may extol the patriotism of Alfred, the policy of Athelstan, the power of Edgar, the valour of Edmund, and the piety of Edward; but after all, there is little in the Saxon times to be admired, less to be imitated, but much to be deplored. The gloomy ages of misery and devastation which rolled over this district during the Saxon domination, were gilded with but infrequent gleams of prosperity and peace, which only rendered the preceding and the subsequent darkness the deeper and more dismal.

SECTION III.

HISTORY IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

THE atrocious proceedings of William the Conqueror in the north of England, have attached indelible infamy to his name, and demonstrate that he was one of the most sanguinary and detestable tyrants that ever excited the execration of mankind. At first, indeed, he treated his new subjects with moderation and kindness: and appeared desirous, by allaying their animosity and gaining their affections, of permanently establishing the foundations of his throne. While he was absent, however, in Normandy, his followers exasperated the natives beyond all forbearance, by their vexatious exactions, their cruelties, and their crimes; and the English determined to re-assert their national independence, and to break the yoke which the haughty foreigners had imposed. The spirit of resistance was particularly energetic in Yorkshire and the counties of the north; the warlike inhabitants rose in arms; with the great Earls Morcar and Edwin at their head, they expelled the garrison of York, and killed the governor and many of his retainers; and assisted by a Danish army which landed in the Humber, they gained a great victory over the Normans, who left three thousand of their warriors dead upon
A.D. 1069. the field. William determined to exact a terrible revenge; he advanced against York, and directed the line of his march through the district now under review. At Castleford he was detained three weeks by an inundation of the Aire; when the waters had subsided, and a ford had been discovered, the Conqueror proceeded to York; after a siege of six months the city was taken; its buildings, though more magnificent and extensive than those of London, were levelled with the ground; and the garrison, with most of the inhabitants, was put to the sword. William was not content with this act of implacable vengeance. With a barbarity to which there is no parallel in history, and which human language cannot describe, he dispersed his armed retainers over the

country in small divisions, and commanded them to spare neither man nor beast, and to destroy the houses, the corn, the implements of husbandry, and whatever was essential to the support of life. His orders were executed; one hundred thousand men, women, and children were slain; and one of the most fertile regions in Britain was transformed into a desolate wilderness. Although the ravages of the Normans were directed principally to the north, so that a century afterwards not a patch of cultivated ground could be perceived between York and Durham, yet there is satisfactory reason to conclude, that this district felt the disastrous effects of their inhumanity. This revolting fact is placed beyond dispute by the entries in Doomsday Book, which describes many of the places which it enumerates as depopulated and waste. Twice the Conqueror marched through this district after the capture of York; once on his return from the north, when many of his soldiers perished among the hills in the snow; and a second time on his route from York to Chester. From the character of the commander and the disposition of the army, there can be no doubt that their path was marked with flame and blood.

The distribution of landed property in this district will be exhibited from the statements of Doomsday Book, and other authorities, which will be found arranged in our accounts of each of the towns and villages in succession. Nearly the whole of the district was bestowed upon Ilbert de Lacy, who from the vast extent of the gifts of the Conqueror, must have been one of his most distinguished followers, and one of his greatest favourites. This nobleman consolidated his immense estates in Yorkshire into the barony of Pontefract, and became the founder of one of A. D. 1072. the most powerful and renowned families of the north. The Lacies were celebrated as the founders of the three religious houses of Nostel, Pontefract, and Kirkstall; they obtained the Earldom of Lincoln; and besides the extensive lordship of Blackburnshire in the county of Lancaster, they had twenty five towns in the wapentake of Morley alone, and the greater part of one hundred and fifty manors in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Of this family some additional account will be given in the subsequent pages. It must be further observed upon this subject, that a complete revolution took place in the whole property of the country. It was the great object of the Normans to exalt their power and secure their dominion by the depression and ruin of

the English; and in the course of a few years, they obtained possession of every dignity in the church, of every place of emolument and authority in the state, and of almost all the property in the land.* The consequences of this systematic usurpation were most disastrous. Strong castles were built in commanding stations in which the principal lords resided; the adjacent country was divided among their retainers; the insolence and barbarity of both became unbounded; the natives were every where reduced to abject misery, their females were violated, their property was ruined, and their persons were insulted. "I will not undertake," said the ancient historian, "to describe the misery of this wretched people. It would be a painful task to me, and the account would not be credited by posterity."

For more than two hundred years, the district continued in the same depressed condition. Whatever romantic associations may be connected with the feudal institutions, the times in which they existed in full vigour, were replete with anarchy, tyranny, ignorance, wickedness, and woe. The eminences of the prospect are gilded with the gaudiest colours; but the whole space beneath is covered with the blackness of almost impenetrable darkness. There is something fascinating to the imagination in the trappings of the tournament, the array of knights in glittering armour, and the brilliant paraphernalia of baronial magnificence; but while the mind dwells upon scenes like these, presented as they have often been to its contemplation during the last few years, with all the graphic power and impressive illustration of resplendent genius, it is too prone to forget the utter and unmitigated degradation of the vast majority of the people, whose properties and whose lives were at the disposal of their capricious lords, and whose physical and mental energies were pressed down to the very dust, by the intolerable weight of an overbearing and irresistible despotism.

The justice of these observations is fully established by all the authentic information which can be collected of this district under the feudal administration. In the reign of Edward the Second, it reached the lowest stage of depression and misery to which it ever descended. After the battle of Bannockburn, the exasperated Scots, whose marauding rapacity and vindictive passions were infuriated by a sense of national injury, burst like a desolating torrent upon the northern counties; they repeatedly

* Lingard's Hist. of England, 1. 420.

ravaged the fairest and most fruitful provinces of Yorkshire, and this district felt the full effects of their bitter animosity. Morley, which seems at this period to have been a place of considerable consequence, was twice visited by the Scottish forces; on one of these occasions a division of their predatory army spent a whole winter in the town; they no doubt made it the centre of their operations and the magazine of their spoil; and in all probability they so completely ruined it on their departure, that it has never since recovered its former prosperity and importance.* Birstall, Rothwell, and Baumberg are particularly mentioned as the scenes of Scottish devastation. The state of this district and its vicinity at this period may be ascertained by one circumstance. Prior to the irruptions which have just been alluded to, the King came to York for the purpose of raising an army to obstruct the progress of the victorious Bruce; but he found the country so completely depopulated, that he was compelled to apply to the southern and western counties for men to constitute his forces. A. D. 1322.

Pestilence and famine aggravated the miseries of feudal oppression and the calamities of war. The harvest of 1314 had failed; the merchants of Newcastle and other ports, on account of the general scarcity, obtained the royal license to purchase corn on the continent, and to import it into England; but the supply was inadequate, and the price of all the necessaries of life enormously increased. In the following year the harvest again failed, a distemper broke out among the cattle, and fatal diseases were engendered and disseminated among the people, by the insufficiency and insalubrity of their food. The famine fearfully increased; wheat sold for ten times its usual value; the unhappy poor fed upon roots, and the flesh of dogs, horses, and the most loathsome animals; and instances were not wanting in which the cravings of hunger so completely stifled the feelings of humanity, that men devoured the bodies of their companions, and parents derived their sustenance from the corpses of their children.

For all these reasons, we fix upon the age of Edward II. as the most calamitous in the history of the district. From the time of the Conquest, it is probable that its condition had been gradually deteriorating. It is true, indeed, that some improvement was effected in the productiveness of the ecclesiastical estates; from some remaining documents, it appears that the monks of Kirkstall were diligently active in draining the

* Scatcherd's Hist. of Morley, 4.

marshes, inclosing waste lands, and reclaiming the woods; but these were rather exceptions to the common practice, than ordinary cases—generally speaking, the nobles were military tyrants, their retainers were sanguinary freebooters, and the people were miserable slaves.

During the long reign of Edward III. no event took place which requires to be inserted in the general history of this district. The commercial enactments of that monarch, which affected the basis of what afterwards became the great staple manufacture of the district, will be described in their proper place. Richard II., the unfortunate son and successor of this great monarch, after his deposition by Henry IV. was confined for some time in the castle of Leeds, prior to his removal to
A. D. 1399. Pontefract, and his barbarous murder by the emissaries of the usurper. The reign of Henry witnessed violent commotions in Yorkshire, in which the inhabitants of this district must have partially engaged, and by which they must have been considerably agitated. After the rebellion of the Percies, and the defeat and death of Hotspur at the battle of Shrewsbury, the old Earl of Northumberland united with Scroop the Archbishop of York, the Earl Marshal, and some other noblemen, in an insurrection against the government, with the ostensible object of redressing the grievances which had been involved in the proceedings of the usurper. An instrument, divided into ten articles, and charging the King with perjury, rebellion, extortion, irreligion, usurpation, and the murder of his sovereign, was fixed upon the doors of the churches; and such was the impression it produced, that many thousand men immediately ran to arms. The plans of the insurgents, however, were as unsuccessfully performed as they were wretchedly contrived; Scroop and the Earl Marshal were taken
A. D. 1405. and executed; Northumberland, three years afterwards, was
A. D. 1408. defeated and slain on Bramham Moor by Sir Thomas Rokeby, the Sheriff of the county; and the whole insurrection, like every other unsuccessful rebellion, contributed to ensure the stability and strength of the government it was intended to destroy.

When the fatal war of the Roses commenced—a war, which although it deluged the country with blood, and multiplied its miseries beyond all precedent and description, was ultimately productive of beneficial consequences, by depressing the power of the barons, by preparing for the annihilation of feudal anarchy, and the establishment of regular government upon its ruins—

this district, like all the rest of the kingdom, became a scene of confusion and a theatre of carnage. The pretensions of the Duke of York to the crown, as descended on the maternal side from the youngest, and on the maternal from the third, son of Edward III.—the corporeal and mental incapacity of Henry VI.—the origin of the contest—the character, the motives, and the crimes of the leaders of the rival factions—and the alternations of victory or defeat which chequered the eventful and sanguinary struggle, the reader will find narrated in other works and by other historians—we confine ourselves exclusively to the transactions which occurred within the limits or on the borders of our own district, and which immediately affected the condition of its inhabitants. After the king had been made a captive by the Yorkists, and had been compelled to submit to a compromise by which the Duke of York was declared heir apparent to the crown, the cause of the Lancastrians was vigorously maintained in the north by the Earl of Northumberland, and the Lords Clifford, Dacres, and Nevil. Joined by the Duke of Somerset and the Earl of Devon, and invigorated by the presence of the queen, the celebrated Margaret of Anjou, their force appeared sufficiently formidable to reinstate the unfortunate king in the permanent possession of his throne, and finally to subvert and triumphantly to destroy the power of his foes. The Duke of York was aware of the imminence of his danger, and he hoped by his rapid movements and skilful manœuvres to baffle the designs of the Lancastrians. Accompanied by the Earl of Salisbury, he advanced by forced marches at the head of a small army into Yorkshire, took possession of the strong and extensive castle of Sandal, near Wakefield, and could he have restrained his ardour until his eldest son, the Earl of March, had arrived with a numerous reinforcement, he might probably have succeeded in dispersing the troops of his enemies. When, however, he heard himself taunted by the Lancastrians as a coward who had not the courage to face a woman, he abandoned the fortifications of the castle; he led his little army, consisting of five thousand men, not a fourth of the number of the Lancastrians, to Wakefield Green, to prove his bravery, or rather his temerity; the fate of the battle was soon decided; the forces of the Duke were overwhelmed by the arrows, or trampled down beneath the cavalry of his opponents; he was slain upon the field with two thousand of his men and most of their leaders; and the Earl of Salisbury was taken during

Dec. 20, 1460.

the night, and beheaded the next day. The slaughter was not confined to the field of battle; one deed of atrocity was perpetrated after the victory was gained, which is almost unparalleled in English history, and has branded the name of its perpetrator with imperishable infamy. The Earl of Rutland, the second son of the Duke of York, had fled with his tutor from the conflict, and was stopped on the bridge of Wakefield. When his name was demanded by his pursuers, he was unable to articulate from fear, and fell upon his knees; and his tutor, in the hope of saving his life, exclaimed that he was the son of the Duke of York. "Then," cried the ruffian Lord Clifford, "as thy father slew mine, so will I slay thee, and all of thy kin;" he then plunged his dagger into the body of the inoffensive youth, and commanded the tutor to go and to bear the tidings of the murder to the widowed mother. This Clifford, says Leland, for this and other brutalities perpetrated during the course of the war, acquired the name of the "boucher"* The body of the Duke of York was recognized among the slain; the head was presented to the queen; and this gory trophy of her victory, surrounded with a paper crown in derision of the Duke's royal claims, was fixed upon the walls of York.

The battle of Wakefield by no means terminated the calamities of the district during this cruel civil war; its borders were destined, in a few short months, to witness a contest the most sanguinary and tremendous that ever occurred in the British Isles. Edward, the Earl of March, assumed the direction of the Yorkists, and on the field of Towton he waded through the blood of his enemies to the possession of the throne. This talented and brave, but cruel, vindictive, and profligate leader, undaunted by the defeat and death of his father, had marched with an army from the west of England to London; there he had formed a junction with the celebrated Earl of Warwick, "the king-maker;" and such was the terror inspired by the abilities and the power of these renowned chieftains, that the Lancastrians retired with expedition into the counties of the north. When Edward had assumed the title and authority of a monarch in London, he marched with the Earl of Warwick into Yorkshire,

March 4, 1461.

* Leland says of this battle, "There was a sore batell fought in the south fieldes by this bridge, and on the flite of the Duke of York's parte, other the Duke himself or his sun therle of Rutheland was slayne a little above the barres beyond the bridge going up a clyving ground."

to avenge the death of his father, and, by a decisive victory, to fix the crown upon his head. The hostile armies were very numerous, and were inflamed against each other with the worst passions which can brutalise the heart of man—forty-nine thousand combatants were arrayed under the banner of Edward at Pontefract, and sixty thousand cavalry and infantry on the side of the Lancastrians were collected in the neighbourhood of York. The armies advanced to decide the contest. Ferrybridge had been occupied, and the passage of the river at that place had been secured for Edward, by Lord Fitzwalter, but this officer was surprised and slain by Lord Clifford. To remedy this disaster, Lord Falconbridge, with a strong body of troops, ascended the Aire to Castleford, where he crossed the river; while Clifford retreated before him to the outposts of the Lancastrian army, and at Dittingdale, close to Towton, "the boucher" was unexpectedly slain by an arrow in the throat.* The next day, the decisive battle of Towton was fought, and the murderous obstinacy with which both armies contended, will be demonstrated both by the nature of their respective positions, and the duration of the struggle. Since the field of battle was little more than a mile in length, the troops on either side must have advanced to the front in successive divisions over the bodies of their companions. From nine in the morning until seven in the evening, the conflict continued without intermission; at length the Lancastrians, confused and blinded by a fall of snow which was driven by the wind directly in their faces, began to give way, at first leisurely and in good order, but soon in confusion and terror. The bed of the little river Cock, directly in their rear, was soon filled with the corpses of the slain; universal and irremediable panic prevailed among the vanquished; the Yorkists had been forbidden by proclamation to give any quarter; nearly thirty thousand of the Lancastrians perished, and if the loss of their opponents be taken into the account, it will appear that almost forty thousand Englishmen perished by each other's hands on this dreadful day. Six barons were slain in the battle and pursuit; the Earl of Northumberland died of his wounds on his arrival in York; the Earls of Devonshire and Wiltshire were taken in

March 29, 1461.

* A retributive Providence was remarkably displayed in the death of this ferocious baron. When he had unclasped his helmet to drink a cup of wine, a boy, whose father he had slain, and who was concealed in an adjoining bush, inflicted upon him a mortal wound with an arrow.

their flight, and were decapitated; the heads of some of these noblemen were affixed to the walls of York; and Edward, thus victorious, returned from the north to London, where he consummated his triumph by the ceremony of his coronation. The reader will be gratified by having this brief account of the battle of Towton terminated by the description of Camden.

That antiquary says, "From Aberford the river Cockar makes its way to the Wharf, as if mourning for detestation of the civil wars, ever since it ran with English blood. For on its bank near the country village of Towton, was strictly our Pharsalia. This kingdom in no place saw so great an army and such a body of nobility (no less than one hundred thousand men) never more inveterate or more spirited leaders of opposite factions, who on Palm Sunday 1461 met in a pitched battle. The fight continued doubtful the greater part of the day. The Lancastrians, unable to withstand the shock, nothing proving so fatal to them as the unwieldy vastness of their own army, gave way and fled in disorder. The Yorkists pursued them with so much eagerness, that besides many of the nobility, thirty five thousand English fell that day."*

Some relics of this engagement are still in existence. Besides the tomb of Lord Dacre in Saxton Church, and some other stones with crosses supposed to commemorate others of the slain, Whitaker preserved with respect a silver ring gilt, with two hands conjoined, which was found upon the field of Towton. The same antiquary remarks that the remains of arms, armour, bones, &c. turned up on the ground of this great engagement have been remarkably small, a fact which may be accounted for by recollecting that the weather was cold and the victory complete, so that the spoil of the field and the interment of the dead proceeded at leisure. One relic, however, of great value escaped the vigilance of plunder, namely a gold ring weighing above an ounce, which was found on the field about forty-eight years ago. It had no stone, but a lion passant was cut upon the gold with this inscription in the old black character, "Nowe ys thus." The crest is that of the Percies, and there can be little doubt that it was the ring actually worn by Northumberland. The motto seems to allude to the times, "The Age is fierce as a lion."†

In the subsequent changes of this sanguinary contest, though

* Gough's Camd. iii. 67. † Whitaker's Loid and El. p. 156.

it continued to rage upon its frontiers, this district had no participation; and no event occurred of sufficient importance to be inscribed upon its annals, until Henry VIII. overturned the papal dominion in England, and relieved his kingdom from a disgraceful bondage in which it had been retained more than five hundred years. However beneficial the effects of this great revolution were in after times, they involved in the first instance considerable confusion, and produced a dangerous rebellion against the royal government. After the dissolution of the religious houses, with the chantries, chapels, hospitals, and other institutions for the benefit of the poor, the dissatisfaction of the people was exasperated by the officious representations of the priests and monks who had been expelled from their convents, and who, notwithstanding all the enormities which were laid to their charge, still retained a powerful influence over the popular mind. The consequence was, that an armed multitude from the counties of Durham, Lancaster, and York, assembled under the command of Robert Aske of Aughton, a gentleman of considerable fortune and influence, and assisted by several men of dignity and abilities. These rebels called their expedition the Pilgrimage of Grace; A. D. 1536. they were headed in their march by a number of priests in the habits of their order, with crucifixes in their hands, and with the exhibition of other mummeries of popery, to maintain the confidence and to influence the enthusiasm of the motley crowd who were thus rushing upon their own destruction. This insurrection is mentioned in this work, because the pilgrims directed their course through this district on their way to Pontefract castle, which they captured. It is unnecessary to accompany them on their progress to the south, or to describe the infatuation of their councils, the wily policy of their opponents, the dispersion of their forces, the execution of their leaders, and the ruin of their cause. The whole insurrection originated in fanaticism, was conducted with folly, and terminated in disgrace.*

No incidents merit record in the history of the district for more than a century after the Pilgrimage of Grace. The restoration of popery by Mary, and of Protestantism by Elizabeth; the rebellions of the earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland on behalf of the captive queen of Scots; the accession of James I. and the commencement of the dynasty of the infatuated and

* Drake's York, 235. Fox's Martyrol. ii. 992. Ling. iv.. 252.

unfortunate Stuarts, produced no consequences to this district which demand particular description or effected any extensive alteration in the state of its interests and inhabitants. The occasional ravages of pestilence refer rather to individual localities than to the general district; and, with other diversified events, will be narrated in our accounts of the towns and villages within our limits.

SECTION IV. THE CIVIL WAR.

THE civil war between Charles I. and the Parliament, forms the most interesting, but at the same time the most melancholy department of our History. It is not our province to state the origin and progress, or to estimate the merits of the dispute between privilege and prerogative, between regal aggression and popular rights. The conduct of the king on the one hand, it must be acknowledged, was most imprudent, most illegal, and tyrannical, and was directly calculated to involve himself, his family, and his government in one common ruin. Taxes, some of them iniquitous and oppressive, were levied without the consent of parliament; extravagant imposts were laid upon several kinds of merchandise; the officers of the customs were empowered to enter into any habitation to seize upon effects in default of the payment of duties; and to repress resistance and inforce obedience, many condemnatory sentences, infamously severe, were passed in the Star Chamber and the High Commission Court. The "Petition of Right," which was ultimately accepted by the king, indeed, professed to remedy these grievances; it declared compulsory loans, arbitrary taxes, the exercise of martial law, and the oppression of the courts just named, to be contrary to the established laws of the kingdom. Well would it have been had A. D. 1628. the principles embodied in this celebrated document, regulated the conduct of both parties in their ulterior proceedings. "Happy," exclaims De Lolme,* "had been the people if their leaders, after having executed so noble a work, had contented themselves with being the benefactors of their country! Happy had been the king, if his submission had been sincere, and if he had become sufficiently sensible that the only resource he had left was in the affection of his subjects!"

There can be no doubt that prior to the commencement of the civil war, great excitement must have been produced in this district and in the whole county of York, by the royal expeditions

* De Lolme on the English Constitution, p. 59.

against the Scots. Charles, treading in the steps of his father, attempted to force episcopacy and a liturgy upon Scotland, against all the principle, all the conviction, and all the determination of the people; this most impolitic and tyrannical, this positively insane as well as wicked measure, filled the whole nation with confusion and tumult; and the exasperated and aggrieved Scots formed their Solemn League and Covenant, by which they bound themselves to resist innovations in religion and to defend each other against all violence and oppression. In the hostilities which followed, Charles twice visited Yorkshire; and while the whole county was filled with military preparations, the people eagerly discussed the proceedings of government, and their minds were gradually prepared for the fierce and calamitous struggle which followed. After the impeachment, condemnation, and execution of the earl of Strafford,* the breach between the king and

A. D. 1639.
A. D. 1640.
A. D. 1641.

* Since this unfortunate and culpable, though highly talented man, belonged to this district, a few particulars relative to his connexion with it, may be inserted in this note without fatiguing the patience of the reader. Gawthorp Hall, which formerly stood in the immediate vicinity of the site of the present Harewood House, was his patrimonial residence. It had previously been rendered celebrated as the seat of Chief Justice Gascoigne, from whose family it passed by marriage to the Wentworths, and at the commencement of the seventeenth century Sir William Wentworth, the father of the subject of this note, was in possession of it. Thomas Wentworth was the eldest son of this baronet, and succeeded to the title and estates in 1614. He had previously married Mary Clifford, eldest daughter of the earl of Cumberland. To the delightful retreat of Gawthorp he was sincerely attached, and seems to have been passionately devoted to the pleasures of a rural life, until he was allured by the fascinations of ambition into the agitating scenes of political life. The following quotation from a letter written by Wentworth to Sir George Calvert, principal secretary of state, shews his zest for the occupations of the country. "Our harvest is all in; a most fine season to make fishponds; our plums are all gone and past; peaches, quinces and grapes, almost fully ripe, &c. These only we countrymen muse of; hoping in such harmless retirements for a just defence from the higher powers, and possessing ourselves in contentment, pray with Dryope in the poet,—

Et si qua est pietas, ab acutæ vulnere falcis,
Et pecoris morsu frondes defendite nostras."

This letter is dated August 31, 1624. Happy would it have been for the writer had he never left Gawthorp; then he would not have been branded with the name of an apostate, he would not have excited the fury of a whole nation, he would not have been abandoned by an unworthy and ungrateful master in the hour of danger, he would not have suffered the death of a traitor. The name of Strafford will shortly occur in another note.

parliament continued to grow wider, and the adherents of both to become more irritated, until there was no appeal left but to the sword.

When the standard of war had been unfurled, when the trumpet had sounded its fatal blast, when the sword had been drawn and the scabbard had been thrown away, Yorkshire became one of the principal theatres of the unnatural struggle, and its inhabitants, in proportion, the subjects of its multiplied calamities. We shall exclusively confine ourselves, in our narrative, to the events which transpired in the province which is the subject of the work.

The great majority of the inhabitants of our district were devotedly attached to the parliament at the commencement of the civil war; and on this account they were represented by the royalists as eminently disaffected. The example and influence of some of the most distinguished of their gentry; their dread of popery, which had been inspired by some imprudent measures of the court; and their abhorrence of arbitrary power—all combined to prejudice the minds of the people against their unfortunate monarch, and to induce them to obstruct to the utmost extent of their ability the progress and success of his cause. One principal source of their aversion to the party of the royalists has yet to be mentioned. A considerable number of the people were anxious not only to obtain an increase of civil liberty, but to effect a change in the whole ecclesiastical constitution of the country. They believed that the reformation was incomplete, and that many of the rites and ceremonies retained by the established church, were opposed to the letter, and were inconsistent with the spirit, of the gospel. Some of this very numerous body of individuals were Presbyterians, and others were Congregationalists. The first desired to have a church governed like that of Scotland, or some of the ecclesiastical societies abroad—the second were for abolishing all general as well as secular government of the church, and for leaving each individual congregation of Christians to enact its own laws, and to administer its own affairs. The religious feelings of both parties had been shocked by the royal sanction which both James I. and Charles I. had given to the profanation of the Lord's day;* and their affections had been completely alienated from the Church, by the conduct of both these princes,

* By the infamous book of Sports.

who had made its ministers the direct advocates and supports of their prerogative, and by the proceedings of its unhappy primate (Laud) whom they justly regarded as the originating cause of the most obnoxious and fatal aggressions of the court.

"At the first setting out," says the historian of York, "the gentlemen of both parties were so cautious of involving this county in a war, that a treaty was set on foot, and fourteen articles agreed upon between them, by and with the consent of the right honourable Henry earl of Cumberland, lord lieutenant of his majesty's forces in the county of York, and Ferdinando lord Fairfax. These articles comprehended a suspension of all military actions and preparations in the county on both sides."* In the signatures appended to this document, the reader will recognise the names of some of the most influential persons connected with this district. It was signed on the king's party by Henry Bellasyse, William Savile, Edward Osborne, John Ramsden, Ingram Hopton, and Francis Nevile; and on the side of the parliament, by Thomas Fairfax, Henry Mauleverer, William Lister, William White, John Farrar, and John Stockdale. This impracticable agreement was violated almost as soon as it was made.

Dated Sept. 29, 1642.

A curious circumstance is recorded by Thoresby, which occurred prior to the commencement of hostilities, and which will be interesting at any rate to the inhabitants of Leeds. Mr. Robinson, the vicar of that town, was induced at the request of his old patron, the earl of Southampton, to preach before the king then at York. This clergyman, who was in the same city when the application was made to him, had only one sermon with him upon a text, which was certainly strangely contradictory to the occasion, and inconsistent with the character and intentions of the auditory. The text was Heb. xii. 13. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." This text, however, says the narrator, "he managed so dexterously, as not only to avoid giving offence, but to procure a gracious acknowledgment from the king, who offered him the title and distinction of his chaplain, which he modestly declined." Mr. Robinson, it will soon be seen, was an eminent loyalist, and a distinguished sufferer in the cause of his master.†

When Charles I. had removed from York to Nottingham, where he pitched the royal standard and commenced the opera-

* Drake's Hist. York, p. 160 † Thoresby's Vicaria, p. 75.

tions of the war, Sir Thomas Fairfax, "the hero of the commonwealth," the son of Lord Fairfax of Denton, and Captain Hotham, son of Sir John Hotham the governor of Hull, encouraged by the favourable disposition of the people and the weakness of the royalists, advanced to Wetherby and Tadcaster, and successfully A.D. 1642. repulsed Sir Thomas Glemham who attempted to regain possession of the towns. But when the Earl, afterwards Marquis and Duke of Newcastle, had arrived from the north with a considerable army in York, the Royalists by their numbers obtained a comparative superiority; they retook Tadcaster, compelled Fairfax to retire, and attempted the complete subjugation of the whole West Riding to the authority of the king. Wakefield and Leeds were incapable of making any effectual resistance; and the former town, on account of its central situation on the high road to the south, and the fertility of the surrounding country, was made by the royalist general his place of arms; there for some time he had his head quarters; and when he marched to the reduction of Sheffield and Rotherham, then occupied by the parliamentarians, he left the greatest part of his artillery and ammunition behind him in Wakefield, with a considerable part of his army for a guard.*

The royalists were not satisfied with the reduction of Wakefield and Leeds; a numerous body of them marched against Bradford, and encamped on that part of the common called Dec. 1642. Undercliff. The inhabitants, who through the whole of the war displayed extraordinary intrepidity and animated devotion to the cause of the parliament, prepared to withstand an assault, and the besiegers were driven away with loss. In a few days they again returned to the attack under the command of Goring, Newcastle's Master of the Horse, and other officers; the inhabitants, according to a custom † prevalent long anterior to the siege, had rendered the tower of the church the fortress of the town, and had surrounded it with woolpacks to deaden the force of the cannon shot. The royalists came on with great impetuosity, and were received with equal resolution. Goring, separated from his men in the assault of the church, was taken by the parliamentarians, but was rescued by a charge of his own troops; while a

* Drake 161. Life of Newcastle by his Duchess, 33—35.

† Scatcherd has collected various references to this practice in his History of Morley.

person called by Lister (from whose auto-biography this account is taken) Sir John Harp, son of the Earl of Newport, who attempted to force his way to the church through a house, but was abandoned by his men, was slain by the inhabitants notwithstanding his intreaties for quarter. The royalists were compelled to retire a second time to Leeds, and Sir Thomas Fairfax arrived in Bradford, and assumed the command of its resolute defenders.

The troops of the parliament in Bradford were so animated by the two signal defeats which they had inflicted upon the
Jan 23, 1643. royalists, that Fairfax, to render their ardour as subservient as possible to the promotion of his cause, led them directly against Leeds; they took the town by storm;* a considerable number of soldiers were slain; Major Beaumont of Whitley was drowned while attempting to cross the Aire in his flight, and Mr. Robinson the vicar narrowly escaped the same fate.† After the storming
April 1, 1643 of Leeds, the royalists assumed a position at Seacroft, where they were assailed by the parliamentarians, but they maintained their post, and the assailants were defeated with the slaughter of a few of their men. A Captain Boswell is mentioned in the the parish register of Leeds, who was slain in this battle, and buried in that town.

The Earl of Newcastle now made vigorous and successful efforts to restore the superiority of the royal arms. He assembled his troops at Wakefield, and marched to attack the par-

* The following entry in the parish register of Leeds thus refers to this event.—"23d Jan. 1642—3: Leedes was taken by Sir Thomas Fairfax, 11 soldiers slain, buried 24; five more slain two or three days after; six more died of their wounds."

† The adventures of Mr. Robinson after his escape, deserve to be briefly recited in this work. He fled from Leeds to Methley Hall, where for some time he was successfully concealed; but as the power of the parliament became prevalent, and his attachment to the royal cause remained unchanged, he retired from one garrison of the cavaliers to another, until he was at length taken and thrown into prison, first at Middleham and afterwards at Cawood. At the latter place he experienced a signal providential deliverance. The upper part of a tower fell upon his apartment, burst through the roof, and yet the stones descended in such a manner that only one arm was fractured. Through all his misfortunes he was cheered by the possession of the greatest blessing which man can enjoy—the affection of a virtuous woman. His wife never abandoned him in his confinement; through her representations he was at length liberated, and became rector of Swillington, where he died. —Thoresby's Vic.

liamentarians, with several thousand infantry, a considerable body of cavalry, and a formidable array of artillery. On his way he formed the siege of Howley Hall,* then garrisoned for the parliament by Sir John Savile of Lupset, and a body of raw inexperienced soldiers, hastily collected, and ill provisioned. Although Newcastle brought his cannon to bear upon the building, and fiercely battered its walls, the gallant governor resisted him with great resolution; the superiority of numbers and artillery prevailed, and the place was taken by storm. Dr. Whitaker has been strangely mistaken in his account of this event.† Instead of having been so irritated by the intrepid resistance of the governor and garrison as to have commanded them all to be put to the sword, and to have rebuked an officer for having given quarter to Sir John Savile, Newcastle appears to have acted with exemplary humanity, and to have protected the parliamentarians from the fury of his soldiers. Although the stores and goods in the hall were plundered, the building received but little injury, and we find it a short time afterwards again a garrison for the parliament.‡ June 22, 1645.

* Rushworth, p. 274.

† The account which the learned Dr. has given of the siege of Howley Hall must have been compiled with haste, and is chargable with contradiction as well as inaccuracy. He says that Howley Hall was held for the king, and stormed by the opposite party, when the very reverse of this was the case. His mistakes the reader will find ably exposed by Scatcherd. History of Morley, 245.

‡ Of the proprietor of Howley Hall at this period, it is necessary to give a short account. This was Thomas Lord Viscount Savile, a younger son of Sir John Savile, the builder of Howley Hall, and through the reign of James I. a constant opponent of the measures of the court. Lord Thomas Savile, like his father, was the enemy of Strafford, and at the same time he was most certainly attached to the Puritans. This nobleman, by sending a letter to the general of the Scots *professedly* signed by six of the principal noblemen in England, and inviting them to advance to the rescue of the country, was the means of bringing them into this part of the kingdom, and thus of effecting the ruin of Strafford, and the triumph of the parliament. After the death of Strafford, he declared for the king, and he enrolled his name at York in the list of those who resolved to devote their lives and fortunes to the royal cause. When Howley Hall had been stormed as we have related, Lord Savile applied for compensation for the damage which had been done by the royalists, but his memorial did him no good, and elicited a mortifying reply from the court. Although Sussex had espoused the cause of his sovereign, Charles always disliked him; Sussex knew this, and at length abandoned his master, repaired to London, and threw himself upon the mercy of the parliament. He was

Lord Fairfax and his son, aware of the advance and success of Newcastle, convinced that Bradford, from its untenable situation, surrounded by hills on every side, could not long hold out against the overwhelming force of the royalists, and that nothing but a decisive victory could insure its safety, determined to attempt an effectual surprise of their enemies, and the consequent dispersion of their army. At the head of three thousand men, they advanced towards the quarters of the royalists; but they were betrayed by some traitors in their own ranks; Newcastle had received accurate intelligence of their motions; and his infantry, cavalry, and artillery were all drawn up in regular battalia on Adwalton Moor. The Fairfaxes, however, though delayed, disappointed, and betrayed, though vastly inferior to the royalists both in the number, the composition, and the *materiel* of their troops, advanced with admirable courage to the charge; and ably seconded by their officers and men, they at one time penetrated the lines of the royalists, and were on the very point of gaining a glorious victory. Rushworth, almost the only historian who has given an accurate account of the battle, says, "The Earl had the advantage in number, especially in horse; but Fairfax's foot at first got the ground, and had almost encompassed the Earl's train of artillery, and put his forces to the rout, when a stand of pikes gave some check to their success, and at the same time a body of horse fell upon their rear and routed them; so that the fortune of the field being changed in one instant, Fairfax's army was utterly defeated, several pieces of ordnance taken, four or five hundred men slain, and many prisoners."* Lord Fairfax retreated to Bradford, and his son to Halifax, but the latter joined his father on the following day.† Numerous relics, such as cannon

received as he deserved, with suspicion; he was even exposed to the danger of punishment, and what ultimately became of him it is useless to inquire. He was the first and last Earl of Sussex of his family, and is a proof of the fact, that a man of no fixed principles always becomes despicable at last. Of his family, some account will be given in another chapter. Drake, 150. Whitaker, 237. Scatcherd, 38, 39.

* Rushworth, v. 279.

† The reader will be pleased with the following lively description of this engagement by Scatcherd.—"The battle of Adwalton Moor, notwithstanding the result, is one among the number of contests in those times, which may teach us the vast superiority of moral over physical or brute force; of principle and patriotism, over ignorance and servility. Confiding in their immense numbers, their powerful cavalry and cannon, in the treachery of Gifford,

balls, grape shot, bullets, and bridle chains, have been found on the scene of this desperate engagement.*

Immediately after the battle of Adwalton, Newcastle advanced against Bradford,† and fixed his head quarters at Bowling Hall. Fairfax found that resistance would be unavailing, and would only lead to a useless expenditure of blood. At the head of his determined followers, he broke through the lines of the royalists, and effected his escape through Leeds to Hull; but his lady, who with a courage and fortitude above her sex, had been his companion through all the perils of the campaign, fell into the hands of the enemy. Newcastle, with the true dignity of a nobleman and the generosity of a Briton, not only liberated the intrepid female on the spot, but sent her under an escort, and in his own coach, to a place of safety that she might rejoin her gallant husband. Bradford, after the departure of Fairfax, was filled with apprehension and despair. We have already stated how, in the second attack of the royalists upon the town, some of the inhabitants in the fury of the battle had killed Sir John Harp after he had called for quarter. It was now generally believed, that the victorious general was determined to exact a terrible revenge for the slaughter of the young cavalier, and to inflict a tremendous punishmeut upon the town for its zealous attachment to the cause of the parliament, by abandoning it to the

Jeffries and others, and the discontent arising from false notions, the royalist army could assure itself of nothing short of an immediate victory, and yet after all it was only achieved by a sort of accident. Their outposts beaten back upon their main body, twice did they attack with a numerous cavalry, and twice were they driven away to their cannon, leaving their commanders dead upon the field. The little army advanced—the mighty host retired—a general panic had seized it—a general retreat was sounded—and troops had even quitted the field—all, in short, appeared to be over, and the republican arms were triumphant, when by the fortune of a general officer on the one side, and the perfidy of some of higher rank on the other, the battle lost was recovered." Hist. Morley, 280.

* The hat of a Major Greatheed, who fought in the parliamentary army, and who escaped unhurt, perforated with two balls, and cut into stripes in the brim by the swords of the cavalry, was preserved in his family above a century afterwards. Scatcherd ubi supra.

† Of this attack upon Bradford, an interesting memorial was found in 1827. In taking down the premises adjoining the Union Inn in Ivegate, was found an eight pound cannon ball, no doubt shot from one of the guns of the royalists on this occasion.

licentiousness and brutality of his soldiers, by the conflagration of all its buildings, and the massacre of all its inhabitants. According, however, to the narrative of Lister, a female apparition approached the bed of Newcastle in Bowling Hall during the night immediately preceding the intended tragedy, implored him to spare the town, and so wrought either upon his feelings or his fears, that he promised to spare the trembling people. The impression produced by this dream or apparition was so powerful, that instead of wreaking his vengeance upon the unarmed inhabitants, he contented himself by occupying the town as a garrison for the king.*

These successes were by no means decisive, and the cause of the parliament soon recovered its pristine vigour. The royalists sustained a severe reverse at Wakefield; that town was captured by the parliamentarians; Lord Goring, and nearly all his troops were taken prisoners; and his cannon, his baggage, and ammunition fell into the hands of the conquerors.† Bradford too was soon recovered by the republicans; for when the Earl, now Marquis of Newcastle, had marched to oppose the Scots in their progress towards the northern frontiers of the county, Bradford was again held for the parliament by Colonel Lambert and his regiment. Colonel Bellasis, then the Governor of York for the King, projected the recovery of the town, and he marched with the greatest rapidity against it in the hope of surprising the forces of the parliament. Lambert however was on the alert, he sallied from the town at the head of his men, but retreated behind his ranks when he had ascertained the superior strength of his enemy. The assault of the royalists was vigorous; but the defence was obstinate and successful; Bellasis was defeated with great slaughter, and his antagonist furiously charging on his rear during his retreat, took Colonel Bagshawe, several Captains, one hundred and fifty horse and sixty foot, prisoners.‡ Bradford from this time seems to have been one of the principal stations for the parliament in the north; for after the storming of Bolton-le-Moors by Prince Rupert, and the slaughter of its inhabitants, Colonel Rigby, a member of the House of Commons,

* For these particulars and other details, vide the homely but interesting narrative of Lister passim.

† Hunter's Hallamshire 106. Newcastle Mem. 35.

‡ Rushworth v. 617.

and the governor of that unhappy place at the time of the assault, found a refuge with some of the fugitive garrison in Bradford.* The affairs of the parliament in this district after the defeat of Bellasis at Bradford, were soon in a highly prosperous condition. While the Marquis of Newcastle was in the north, Sir T. Fairfax then besieging Lathom House in Lancashire, defended by that celebrated heroine the Countess of Derby, received orders from the parliament to take advantage of the absence of the royalist commander, and to drive his garrisons and troops from the West-Riding of Yorkshire. Fairfax leaving a part of his army to continue the siege, obeyed the mandate, reduced the whole district into subjection, and organised those forces, which, in conjunction with the Scots under Lesley, and the army of the Earl of Manchester, decisively established the superiority of the parliament by the memorable victory of Marston Moor.†

That victory decided the fate of Yorkshire and ultimately of the nation; the Marquis of Newcastle fled to the continent; the city of York surrendered to the conquerors; the affairs of the unfortunate Charles declined in every part of the kingdom; until defeated at Naseby, sold by the Scots, and insulted by his enemies, his life and reign were terminated by the axe of the executioner—another proof among innumerable affecting instances of a similar character recorded in history, that for a monarch there is but a narrow step between a prison and a grave.

After the battle of Marston Moor the tumultuous agitations of this district gradually subsided into tranquillity. The ruinous and decisive defeat of Lord Digby at Sherburn, and the surrender of the castles of Skipton, Sandal, and Pontefract, terminated the struggle which had deluged the country with

* Rushworth v. 624.

† Indications of the terror inspired by these civil wars are perpetually occurring in this district. In 1824, a number of silver coins of the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., were found under an ancient building at Scholes, near Berwick-in-Elmete. In the same village, about fifty years before, a high wind blew down a thatched roof, in the middle of which was discovered a bag full of silver coins. Both these hoards were no doubt concealed in the civil wars. Another instance of a similar description occurred in 1826, when, as some workmen were removing an ancient wall at Garforth, they found a leathern purse containing forty-one coins of Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I., undoubtedly deposited in their hiding place at the same period.

calamity and blood; the industry of the inhabitants and the progress of manufactures and commerce speedily repaired the desolations of civil war; and the whole district continued to increase in productivenes, in population, in opulence, and in general prosperity, until the evanescent commonwealth was ruined by the defection of the army and the imbecility of the second Cromwell, and the Stuarts were permitted to reascend, and for another quarter of a century to occupy, the throne of the British isles.

Before this narrative of the events which transpired in the civil war is closed, one circumstance must be related which will please and interest the reader. While Charles I. was in the hands of the Scots, and was on his way with them from Newark to Newcastle, he was lodged in the Red Hall in Leeds, shortly to be described, and at that period probably the best house in the town. During his stay at this place, a maid servant, compassionating his deplorable situation, and probably acting under the influence of some royalists in the town, implored him to disguise himself in her dress, and thus to elude the vigilance of his guards and to effect his escape. She declared, at the same time, that were he to succeed in the attempt, he would be immediately conducted by a back alley (Lands Lane) to a friend's house, from whence he could proceed to France. Charles, however, either convinced that the project was impracticable, or entertaining hopes of the intentions of the Scots in his favour which were most signally to be disappointed, refused to embrace the woman's offer, but at the same time to evince his gratitude for her zeal, he gave her the Garter, saying that if it were never in his own power to reward her, his son, on the sight of that token, would bestow upon her some remuneration. After the restoration, the woman repaired to Charles II. related the circumstance, and produced the token. The king inquired from whence she came, she replied, "from Leeds in Yorkshire." "Whether she had a husband?" She answered that she had. "What was his calling?" She said, "An Under Bailiff." "Then," said the king, "he shall be chief bailiff in Yorkshire." Charles seems to have been as good as his word; the husband was elevated to importance and affluence; and afterwards built CrosbyHouse in the Head Row.* This circumstance is worthy of record as one of those

* Thoresby Ducat. 25.

very rare examples of gratitude to those who had been devoted to the cause of his father and his own, afforded by a king whose character may be ascertained by the fact, that he was employed in hunting a moth with his mistresses, while the Dutch were burning and capturing our ships of war in the Thames, and insulting the metropolis of the kingdom.*

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.

Although the majority of the population of this district united in the general joy and exultation with which the restoration of Charles II. to the throne of his ancestors was hailed, yet that event was regarded with unmitigated dissatisfaction by all who had imbibed republican principles, by all who were opposed to the established episcopacy, and by all who entertained a reasonable distrust of the splendid promises and protestations of the king. This dissatisfaction was aggravated by the persecuting spirit of the government, and especially by that fatal act of uniformity, by which a vast number of the most excellent and influential ministers in the kingdom were excluded from their pulpits and driven from the church. The feeling thus produced and fomented, engendered in this district a criminal, and, under all the circumstances of the case, an insane conspiracy, whose character, agents, and termination, must be rapidly presented to the reader. The declared objects of the conspirators were, to "re-establish a gospel ministry and magistracy; to restore the long parliament; to relieve themselves from the excise and all subsidies; and to reform all orders and degrees of men, especially the lawyers and clergy." From the most diligent investigation which the writer has been able to devote to all the particulars which have been recorded relative to this extraordinary plot, he cannot but express his conviction, that it was directed, if it was not originated, by detestable agents employed by some persons high in authority, to produce a political explosion which they might render subservient to their own objects and interests. Whoever peruses with attention the deposition of Ralph Oates against the conspirators,† will have no difficulty, not only in perceiving that this was the fact, but also in fixing upon the very individual whose representations appear to have been the means

* Pepys's Diary ii. 77.

† See this deposition in Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete 108, 173.

of inducing the preposterous enterprise.* However this may be, a plot against the government was concocted, its ramifications seem to have been widely extended, and a number of the conspirators assembled at a trench in Farnley wood in arms. Their paltry rebellion was blasted in its infancy. They had been betrayed. Those who excited, probably informed of the plot. A body of regular troops and militia advanced against them; many were taken on the spot, and many who were concerned in the scheme, were afterwards arrested. Lord Clarendon informs us that "all the prisons in the north were so full, that the king thought it necessary to send down four or five judges to York with commissions of oyer and terminer to examine the whole matter."† The ringleader of the conspiracy proved to be Captain Oates, an old republican officer, who, after the restoration, had taught a school at Morley, in the chancel end of what is now called the Old Chapel. This man, with twenty of his companions, were executed; three of them upon Chapeltown moor.‡ Drake, in narrating this event says, and upon such topics as these, this otherwise excellent historian knew no moderation in sentiment or language, "Several of these hot-headed zealots behaved very insolently on their trials. Corney (one of the number) had the assurance to tell the judge, that, in such a cause he valued his life no more than he did his handkerchief.' Two of these enthusiastical wretches were quartered, and their quarters set up upon the several gates of the city. Four of their heads were set upon Micklegate bar, three at Bootham bar, one at Walmgate bar, and three over the castle gates.§ The reign of Charles II., indeed, was prolific with plots, because it was replete with aggressions; and was one of the most agitated, as it was certainly the most inglorious of any recorded in the annals of the British empire. The monarch, with talents which might

Oct. 12, 1663.

* Whoever wishes to form an accurate judgment of this curious affair, will find it examined with laudable diligence by Scatcherd in his History of Morley, to which work the reader is referred.

† Clarendon's Contin. ii. 415.

‡ Their names were Thomas Oates, Samuel Ellis, John Nettleton, sen. John Nettleton, jun. Robert Scott, William Tolson, John Forster, Robert Olroyd, John Asquith, Peregrine Corney, John Snowden, John Smith, William Ash, John Errington, Robert Atkins, William Colton, George Denham, Henry Watson, Richard Wilson, Ralph Rymer, and Charles Carre.

§ Drake's History of York. 175.

have rendered him the blessing and the pride of his people, was a low debauchee, a degraded prisoner of France, and the whole object of his policy was to obtain from his people sums of money to squander upon his mistresses and his vices; his ministers were frequently profligate and unprincipled caballers; and his people were either persecuted, or corrupted, or deceived, or enslaved.

From this period but few events have transpired in the general history of the district which merit a particular narration. The history of its commerce will involve almost every occurrence of importance, and to that department of the work the reader is referred.

When James II., by claiming the power of *dispensing* with acts of parliament, and by his infatuated attempt to overturn the Protestant religion for whose security and defence his people had sustained the greatest calamities, and to establish upon its ruins that papal system which repeated statutes of the legislature had proscribed, had proved that he was proceeding upon a settled plan for the complete subversion of the laws and the established order of the kingdom, the inhabitants of this district united with their fellow-countrymen in one simultaneous and successful effort to recover their constitutional rights, and to accomplish their deliverance from the galling yoke of despotism and popery. This unhappy monarch, so blinded by his obstinate and furious bigotry, had excited the alarm and disgust of this county, by arbitrarily deposing the protestant Lord Mayor of York with several of the aldermen and other functionaries, and by appointing in their places papists, who were not even freemem of the city. Although the king retraced his steps, and thus endeavoured to allay the dangerous ferment of the popular mind which his temerity had excited, it became evidently necessary to terminate his tyranny, and to expel him from his throne. And when the intelligence was circulated, that the Prince of Orange as the decided champion of the protestant faith was about to land in England with a considerable army, the Deputy-Lieutenants of Yorkshire held a consultation, and determined, upon the proposition of Sir Henry Goodricke, to convene a general meeting of the county for the consideration of the measures which ought to be adopted in the critical state of public affairs. Notices were accordingly issued for a meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, 1688. The folly of James was displayed to the last. A new

commission was received by the Clerk of the West Riding, in which the names of thirty Magistrates, and among the rest of Sir H. Goodricke, were omitted—a measure which aggravated the general exasperation of the people, and strengthened their resolution to oppose the proceedings of the king. The county meeting was held according to the summons, and the proposition was submitted and adopted, "That there having been great endeavours made by government of late years to bring popery into the kingdom, and by many devices to set at nought the laws of the land, there could be no proper redress for the many grievances the nation laboured under, but by a free parliament; that then was the only proper time to press a petition of that sort; and that the inhabitants of Yorkshire could not imitate a better pattern than had been set before them by several lords temporal and spiritual." In the midst of the proceedings a report was circulated that the papists had risen; Lord Danby and some other noblemen immediately appeared in arms; the contagion spread like wild fire; the militia under the command of Lord Fairfax, Sir Thomas Gower, &c. united with the insurgents on behalf of the Prince of Orange; some soldiers in Tadcaster and in other places assumed the same cause; and it was evident that the reign of James II. had arrived at its termination. The agitation of the district was now at its meridian; watch and ward were kept every night by the inhabitants of Leeds and the other towns; and couriers were incessantly traversing the kingdom with intelligence of the gradual progress of the glorious revolution which was then on the eve of accomplishment. At length William and Mary were formally acknowledged the sovereigns of the British Isles; and in the month of February, 1689, were proclaimed in the principal towns of the district with the usual solemnities, and amidst the joyful acclamations of congregated thousands.

In Leeds on the 19th February.

It will be seen by various testimonies which will be found in the local histories, that the condition of the district at this period was highly prosperous, and that the germs of its future importance were rapidly expanding into observation.

From the period of the Revolution we advance at once to that of the rebellion in 1745, when the bold irruption of the Pretender into England, at the head of the undisciplined but intrepid and faithful Highlanders, involved the whole of the district in consternation and dismay. It is difficult indeed for us who live in these

times of internal peace and at the distance of almost a hundred years from the period of actual war, in this happy country so signally protected as it has been by the providence of God amidst disruption of empires and the convulsions of the world, to form any estimate of the terror* excited by the collection of armies to oppose the march of invaders, who by a decisive victory over veteran troops and a regular commander, had proved that they knew how to conquer. It was at this period that a considerable body of soldiers, under the command of General Wade, encamped on the north of Leeds, between Sheepscar and Woodhouse; and from the absence of old trees at the hedgerows, it seems that they appropriated for the use of their own fires, without scruple, all the timber they could collect.† The event is commemorated in the names Wade Lane, Camp Road, &c. in that portion of the suburbs of Leeds. This encampment in itself is of no great consequence, but in one point of view it is highly interesting. It was the last encampment in actual war within the limits of the British empire, that has taken place on the island. Such a long period of deliverance from the dreadful scourge of war has been experienced in no other country in Europe, perhaps in the world. From the Arctic ocean to the Mediterranean sea, from the Uralian mountains to the rock of Gibraltar, every continental state has been traversed by hostile armies, has resounded with the roar of artillery and the horrid din of battle, has been strewed with corpses and deluged with blood. But Great Britain has never seen a hostile banner waving over her plains, her harvests have never been trampled down beneath the hoof of an invader, her habitations of peaceful industry have never been given to the flames, nor have her cities been stormed by a brutal soldiery, and

* "I have conversed," says Dr. Whitaker, "with persons who on that occasion were busily occupied in hiding their plate and other valuables; but as no slaughter followed, all survived to dig up their treasures again, and future antiquarians were deprived of the gratification which would have attended the disinterment of spoons, tankards, tea-pots, and other uncouth and unheard-of implements of domestic life in use at some remote period of society." Loides and Elmete, p. 77.

† When the traveller enters Leeds from the north, he will perceive some very large trees on the right hand after passing Sheepscar turnpike. Tradition says that these trees were saved from the general destruction of timber by the troops, by the owners agreeing to send a certain number of cart-loads of coal in lieu of them. The same story is told of some large trees opposite the alms houses at the top of Wade-Lane.

abandoned to the devastations of lawless avarice, cruelty, and lust. We are by no means desirous of obtruding religious reflections upon historic narrative, but we envy neither the head nor the heart of that reader of these pages, whoever he may be, who does not feel a similar glow of devout gratitude to that which enraptured the mind of an ancient monarch long since gathered to the dust of his fathers, and who does not with that royal poet exclaim, "He hath not dealt so with any nation, and as for his judgments we have not known them. Praise ye the Lord."

May this encampment be the last of a similar description which shall ever exist on English ground! May no hostile disembarkation ever take place on our shores! May Britons never have to fight on their own soil, for their freedom, their institutions, and their homes!

SECTION VI.

MODERN HISTORY.

The inhabitants of this district participated in the ardour which flamed through the kingdom in 1745, to resist the restoration of popery and arbitrary power. They combined with their patriotic associates in the county in raising large sums of money, and in forming considerable bodies of soldiery for the defence of the constitution, and the establishment of the house of Hanover upon the throne. Their demonstrations of loyalty were however rendered unnecessary by the decisive defeat of the rebels on the field of Culloden, by the flight of the Petender, and by the execution of the most influential and guilty leaders of the insurrection.

When the ever memorable, ever disgraceful, and ever deplorable war with the American colonies broke out, this district was the scene of considerable popular agitation. The appearance of 1778.
press gangs in the heart of the country; * the immense increase of the burdens imposed upon the nation; the consequent prevalence of distress; the detestable principle upon which the war was commenced, that a representative government may arbitrarily tax an unrepresented people; and the imprudence, the obstinacy, the prodigality of the ministry at that time in power, all combined to produce general dissatisfaction, and to arouse the attention of every class of the community to the momentous political questions which were advanced for public discussion.

The time of the American war may be considered as a most important epoch in this district, *it was the date of the commencement of that spirit of political enquiry which has been progres-*

* A press gang, in December, 1779, commenced operations in Leeds, and seized a cropper named John Baldwin. This unfortunate man was so affected with this occurrence that he afterwards hanged himself. A press gang had appeared in York a short time previously, but had been compelled to leave the city by the irritation and anxiety of the citizens.

sively expanding and strengthening to the present day. The importance of this fact requires no illustration in these eventful times. Partially indeed this spirit had been excited a few years before the hostilities began. The impolitic, vindictive, and unprincipled persecution of John Wilkes (though a man for the description of whose character, it is impossible to find in the English language terms of disgust and abhorrence sufficiently strong) had excited considerable attention; and accordingly we find that when
April 18. he was liberated from his long imprisonment in April 1770, the event was celebrated in Leeds, Wakefield, Bradford, &c., with the ringing of bells, fire-works, illuminations, and other demonstrations of popular joy, and the names of Wilkes and Liberty, and No. 45,* appeared waving in banners over the doors, or placarded in the windows of most of the houses. After the commencement of the American war, this spirit was cherished by the violence of political parties, and the acrimony of political dispute; by the appeals which were made by influential persons to the opinions, the principles, and the verdict of the people; and by the very measures which government adopted for the defence of the country against the mighty coalition of the hostile powers. Many indications of this spirit appeared. When the Earl of Shelburne, one of the secretaries of state, sent a communication to the mayor of Leeds, recommending an association of young men to be formed to learn the military exercise, the proposition was met, not with immediate assent, but with considerable discussion, it was fairly and sufficiently canvassed, nor was it adopted without vehement opposition from the inhabitants of the surrounding villages. Again we find numerous freeholders of this district attending a meeting
Dec. 30, 1779. at York in order to petition the House of Commons to investigate and correct the gross abuses which prevailed in the expenditure of public money. Another indication of the same fact is to be discovered in the increasing sale of newspapers, the Leeds Mercury for instance averaging two thousand per week, and the sale of other papers also increasing.† And if any further proof of the

* Wilkes commenced the publication of his notorious periodical, the *Noble Britain*, in June, 1782, ostensibly to expose the errors of the ministry. In No. 45, which appeared April 23, 1763, he made an insolent assault upon the king, on account of which subsequent proceedings were instituted.

† Lord North calculated that at this time twelve millions of newspapers were printed every year; and in order to assist the revenue, he raised the price of newspaper stamps from a penny to three half-pence each. The consequence was,

statement which this paragraph is designed to illustrate be required, it will be sufficient to remark, that at this period the abolition of the abuses which had corrupted the system of the national representation began to be discussed, and the term Radical Reform came into common use.* From all these circumstances, and many others which our space will not allow us to detail, and which in fact are not essential to our argument, we are induced to conclude, that to the epoch of the American war is to be ascribed the origin of that popular excitement relative to political topics, and of those popular investigations into the state of parliamentary representation, which in connexion with a similar spirit prevailing through the kingdom, and progressively pervading all classes of the community to the present hour, has produced that mighty change which the last eventful year (1832) has witnessed, and by which an impulse has been imparted to the destinies of the British Empire, which will be felt and perpetuated through the most distant ages of its duration.

It would have been wonderful indeed if this spirit had not been excited in this district, when the distress of a large propor-

that the price of newspapers which generally cost two-pence halfpenny, was raised to three-pence each. As newspapers were conducted at that time, this was quite enough to pay for them.

* It will not be uninstructive to know what were the views of Parliamentary Reform entertained at this period in the county of York. On the sixteenth of January, 1784, Mr. Duncombe presented a petition to the House of Commons from the freeholders of Yorkshire, setting forth "That the petitioners, sensible of the original excellence of the constitution of this country, most ardently wish to have it maintained upon the same genuine principles upon which it was founded;—that it is necessary to the welfare of the people, that the Commons House of Parliament should have a common interest with the nation—that in the present state of the representation of the people, the commons of this realm are partially and inadequately represented, and consequently cannot have that security for their liberties which it is the aim of the constitution to give them—and therefore the petitioners again renew their earnest supplications to the house, to take into their most serious consideration the present inadequate state of the representation of the people in parliament, and to apply such remedy to this great constitutional evil, as to the house may seem meet."

In the course of the debate on the petition, Mr. Pitt stated that "as for himself he need not say that he was a friend to it (Reform.) Soon after his introduction to that house, he had declared his opinion as to the necessity of a parliamentary reform—that opinion he had supported in two successive sessions, and the want of support had not made the least alteration in it."

Hansard's Parl. Hist. vol. xxiv. p. 347.

tion of its inhabitants towards the close of this calamitous contest is considered. The prevalence of that distress produced several
1783. explosions of popular violence. In several of the towns the exasperated poor riotously assembled to demand a reduction in the price of corn, wheat then selling in Leeds at seven shillings and sixpence a bushel; and on the market days they compelled the dealers to sell both corn and meal at a rate which they themselves imposed. The strong hand of the law was required to quell these useless outrages, and some of the deluded ringleaders became the victims of the executioner. The distress of the poor still continued, their necessities became more urgent, and public subscriptions were opened in each of the towns of the district for their relief. We mention one circumstance which was concomitant with this depression, which we leave for the consideration of the reader without comment or remark. The increase of crime became so alarmingly evident, that meetings were called, and resolutions were passed, to oppose the progress and to effect the suppression of vice. But the plan was bad, the attempt was useless, and the evil only took deeper root and obtained wider diffusion.

The tremendous political convulsion involved in the French revolution not only shook every throne in Europe, and threatened the subversion of the institutions and laws of every continental state, but diffused agitation and tremor into the remotest provinces and the most secluded regions, and soon proved itself to be a new and portentous era in the history of the whole civilized world. Its influence extended to this, as well as every other province of the British Empire, and involved every class of its inhabitants in anxiety and alarm. There is reason to believe that a few of the people in this vicinity caught the contagion of Gallic republicanism, and were desirous of witnessing the establishment of a democratic government upon the ruins of the constitution. But their number was few, their influence was limited, their endeavours to disseminate their principles were attended with very partial success, and the impression which they produced upon the population in general was either exaggerated by the fears of alarmists, or misrepresented by the selfish malevolence of insidious men. That it was necessary for government to guard with extreme vigilance against the consequences likely to ensue from the introduction of revolutionary and atheistic principles from France, cannot be denied; but it must also be acknowledged, that the apprehensions of those who were devoted to the support of the

existing administration were far more dreadful than was warranted by the actual state of the country; and that the spirit they sometimes displayed, and the measures they sometimes adopted, were most violent, oppressive, and unjust. It was almost impossible to indulge in any freedom of expression upon political subjects, or to question, in the slightest degree, the policy or the equity of any of the proceedings of government, without immediately incurring the odium of treasonable attachment to the horrible system of spoliation, anarchy, impiety, and blood, which had been established by ruffians and assassins in the finest country of Europe. All public men whose opinions accorded with the doctrines of the opposition in parliament, and all ministers of religion who dissented from the established church, were compelled, in these unhappy times, to exercise the most vigilant caution, lest they should become obnoxious to the jealous suspicion and prejudice of those by whom they were surrounded. There is no proof that the conspiracy alledged to have been formed against the British government, ever extended its ramifications into this district. Intemperate, inflammatory, and seditious publications were certainly widely circulated, and for the sale of papers of this description an unfortunate inhabitant of Leeds was sentenced to two years imprisonment in York Castle. Generally speaking, however, the people in this vicinity were distinguished by preeminent loyalty and devotion to the government. Corps of volunteers and yeomanry cavalry were raised in Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, and other places, to repress internal insurrection as well as to defend against foreign invasion; and a very numerous body of these citizen soldiers from every town in the district was reviewed on Chapeltown Moor, by General Cameron, in the presence of sixty thousand spectators. June 27, 1795.
Large sums were subscribed in aid of the supplies which were required for the defence of the kingdom; the naval victories of Howe, of Duncan, and of St. Vincent, were hailed with the liveliest exhibitions of joy; the measures of the government were vigorously supported by every demonstration of confidence; and a patriotic ardour and a martial spirit simultaneously animated the whole population. And at that appalling period in the national history, when a civil war raged in Ireland, and the French armies were collected on the shores of the Channel with insolent menaces of invasion and conquest, the people of this district united with their countrymen in preparing for the

impending struggle, and in hurling defiance against the malignant enemies of their country.

From the commencement of the first war with France to the termination of the eighteenth century, the poorer inhabitants of this district were frequently involved in the deepest distress. In 1794 the scarcity of employment and the high price of provisions excited general anxiety, and the pressure of the evil was only partially alleviated by benevolent subscriptions to supply the poor with bread at reduced prices. At the beginning of the subsequent year, wheat sold at from twelve to fourteen shillings a bushel; and the most influential inhabitants of Leeds and Bradford honourably distinguished themselves by entering into a solemn agreement to reduce its consumption in their families at least one third, until it should have fallen to eight shillings a bushel. The manufacturing districts at this season were frequently disturbed by riots, and the habitations of the opulent were surrounded by multitudes uttering clamorous cries for bread. The disturbances were not confined to the manufacturing, but extended to the agricultural, portion of this district; at Castleford the people tumultuously seized upon a vessel laden with corn, and were only dispersed by military interposition, and the capture of twelve of the ringleaders.

But although employment again became more generally accessible, and the necessaries of life were more easily procured, the distress recurred with double violence, and to an appalling extent, six years afterwards. In January 1800, we find the poor reduced to such a calamitous state by the high prices of provisions, that the opulent inhabitants of Leeds again entered into a general subscription for their relief. But this most laudable measure only afforded a temporary alleviation. The next month wheat again advanced in price; meat also became considerably dearer; the advance continued in May, and the unhappy people, goaded to violence by starvation, disturbed the markets by their riotous proceedings. In July the price of wheat advanced from forty two shillings to fifty shillings per load of three bushels. Some infamous wretches in this district, the disgrace and the disgust of their species, attempted to make the calamity of the country subservient to their own emolument by "forestalling and regrating" in the markets; and so common was the occurrence of these nefarious practices, that we find public advertisements and protestations frequently issued against their perpetrators. Government inter-

fered; a committee was appointed to deliberate upon the subject; various remedial measures were suggested; and the king himself issued a proclamation recommending the greatest economy in the use of grain, and charging all masters of families to reduce the consumption of bread in their houses at least one third, and in no case to suffer it to exceed one quartern loaf for each person in the week. The royal recommendation was promptly acted upon in this district, but without any material effect; and the average price of wheat rose to upwards of one hundred and eight shillings a quarter. Parliamentary enactments to allow bounties on the importation of various kinds of provisions, to prevent the use of grain in the distillation of spirits and the manufacture of starch, and to prohibit the sale of any bread until twenty-four hours after it had been baked, were all inadequate to arrest the progress of the scarcity, and wheat rose to upwards of eight pounds per quarter. To extend this melancholy history to greater July, 1801. length is unnecessary. It is sufficient to observe that the scarcity produced discontent, and many nocturnal meetings were held in different parts of the district by discontented individuals. The excitement was allayed as the famine subsided, and intirely disappeared when plenty was restored.

From this recital of calamity, we proceed to the description of other events, which excited general attention and alarm through the whole of this district, after an interval of eleven years. Although these events in strict propriety ought to be narrated in the History of Commerce, yet that we may preserve the exclusive reference of that part of the work to its important and extensive subject, we enter upon their narrative in this place. In 1811 the operatives engaged in various branches of manufacture, exhibited an invincible opposition to the introduction of particular articles of machinery, which they deemed to be destructive to their prosperity by diminishing the demand for manual labour, and throwing a considerable number of hands out of employment. The disturbances first broke out in the county of Nottingham, and soon assumed an alarming appearance of systematic insurrection which demanded the direct interference of government. The spirit of riot and insubordination was rapidly communicated to Cheshire, to Lancashire, and to Yorkshire; and in the beginning of the year 1812 it was so widely diffused through this district as to warrant the most serious apprehensions of the inhabitants. The machinery which was particularly

obnoxious to the insurgents in this vicinity, was that used in the gig mills for the shearing of woollen cloth, an operation which had previously been performed by the hand. The malcontents assumed the name of *Ludds* or *Luddites*, from an imaginary person whom they affirmed to be their leader and instigater, and whose name was said to be Ned Ludd. To procure the arms which were necessary to effect their illegal purposes, numerous bands of them, bound by solemn oaths into one formidable confederation, prowled through the country by night, and compelled the inhabitants to deliver into their possession the guns and other weapons which had been provided for the defence of their dwellings. The destruction of the dressing machines commenced in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, and the practice was soon adopted in the neighbourhood of Leeds. Although early in the month of January, the assemblage of a number of unknown men with their faces blackened and armed with offensive weapons, was dispersed by the magistrates before any outrage could be perpe-
Jan. 19. trated, a few nights afterwards the gig mill of Messrs. Oates, Wood, and Smithson was set on fire and considerable damage was done to the building and machinery; the mill of Messrs Thomp-
March 23. son at Rawden was entered, and the obnoxious machinery was destroyed; a quantity of cloth of the value of five hundred pounds which had been dressed by machinery, and belonged to Messrs Dickinson and Co., was cut into shreds in their dressing shops at Leeds; and a numerous body of men marched in regular divisions against the factory of Mr. Foster at Horbury, and in a short time destroyed the whole of the valuable machinery.

A general alarm now pervaded the district, and the Luddites flushed with success, and with the secrecy with which they had been able to conduct their operations, entertained the hope of intimidating the manufacturers into the final abandonment of the machines. On the night of Saturday, April 12, 1812, nearly two hundred of these unhappy men, principally but not wholly cloth dressers, surrounded the mill of Mr. William Cartwright at Rawfolds, near Cleckheaton. Mr. Cartwright had prepared for the hostile visit; and with four of his workmen and two soldiers, he determined to resist the lawless multitude. The assailants marched to the attack in companies armed with pistols, hatchets and bludgeons, and made several desperate attempts to break open the doors and to force their way into the mill. They were completely defeated, however, by the gallant little garrison, and

were compelled after a contest of twenty minutes to retire in confusion, leaving two of their number mortally wounded upon the field. The manufacturers of the district properly appreciated the resolution of Mr. Cartwright, and the importance of his successful opposition against the insurgents, and they presented to him, as a token of their admiration and gratitude, the sum of three thousand pounds, which they had raised by subscription.

The Luddites now determined upon a new and most nefarious plan of operations. Finding that the proprietors of the factories were able and ready to defend their property, they resolved to assassinate some of the obnoxious mill owners, and thus to terrify the whole body into an acquiescence with their terms. Thus Mr. Horsfall, of Marsden, a considerable manufacturer, who employed a quantity of the machinery, was shot in open day on his return from Huddersfield market, and some other diabolical attempts at murder were made, but without the intended success.

A strong proof of the system of confederacy which prevailed among these deluded men, is afforded by the fact, that although a reward of two thousand pounds was offered for the apprehension of the murderers of Mr. Horsfall, several months elapsed before the actual assassins were discovered. The organization of the Luddites was indeed at one time extremely formidable. Numerous societies, governed by secret committees, were united into one confederation; a horrible oath was administered to the members; arms and ammunition were abundantly collected; the practice of military discipline was introduced upon an extensive scale; and it became evident that the most vigorous measures were imperatively demanded from the legislature by so dangerous a system of rebellion and assassination. Government promptly and effectually interposed; a bill was brought into the House of Commons, which rendered the administration of illegal oaths a capital offence, and the power of the magistrates in the disturbed districts was considerably augmented. During the month of July, discoveries were made and information was acquired, principally by the agency of Joseph Radcliffe, Esq. an active and intrepid magistrate, afterwards created a baronet for his services. Before the close of the year, sixty-four persons were apprehended and lodged in the castle of York; a special commission was issued for the trial of the prisoners; and on the second of January, 1813, the extraordinary assize was opened. Eighteen of these miserable offenders were condemned to die; three of them, the mur-

derers of Mr. Horsfall, were executed on Friday, Jan. 8, and fourteen on the Saturday week afterwards. Besides these tremendous, but necessary examples of justice, many of the remaining convicts were sentenced to different punishments, and the tranquillity of the district was restored.

Diabolical as were these excesses, and deeply guilty as were the originators, abettors, and agents of this monstrous system of violence and murder, it must be stated that great numbers of the poor were induced to lend themselves as ready tools to their iniquitous leaders, by the immensely high prices of provisions, the scarcity of employment, and the consequent prevalence of distress. Wheat, of the best quality, in August, 1812, sold for nine pounds a quarter, and a serious riot consequently occurred in Leeds. Headed by a virago, dignified for the occasion with
Aug. 18. the title of Lady Ludd, the populace furiously assailed the dealers in the market; they seized upon a considerable quantity of corn, which they wantonly threw about the streets: and repairing to the works of a miller at Holbeck, who had made himself obnoxious to their violence, they did considerable damage to the property upon his premises. The labouring classes of this district were at this time in a most depressed and unhappy condition—they could often with difficulty procure the necessaries, to say nothing of the comforts, of existence—and they with reason complained of the excessive burden of taxation, and the frequent interruptions of manufacturing activity, involved by a protracted and most expensive war. Under these circumstances, the spirit of outrage need not be wondered at, however it may be condemned; and while we denounce the atrocious crimes of the populace, we may deplore that wretchedness which in a great measure instigated to their commission.

A.D.1815. The termination of the sanguinary wars of the French Revolution and of the reign of Napoleon was hailed in this district with unqualified exultation, and it was anticipated that an immediate and permanent improvement would be effected in the general condition of the empire, by the abolition of a large proportion of the national burdens, by the resuscitated prosperity of the agricultural interest, and by the revival of manufactures and the unfettered extension of trade. These brilliant hopes however were doomed to disappointment; peace did not bring the expected blessings in its train; commerce was involved in melancholy stagnation; the demand for labour rather diminished than increased; and the

operative classes were involved in unprecedented and truly deplorable distress. Never was there a more impressive exhibition of the horrible effects of long continued war, than in the misery and discontent which pervaded the whole British Empire after the peace which the decisive victory of Waterloo achieved. To the unnatural and artificial state of things the war had produced—to the inconsistent relative position of the leading interests of the country it effected—and to the enormous incubus of taxation it placed upon the vitals of national prosperity—the evils of public distress, general agitation and popular insurrection are to be ascribed. These evils in this and in other similar districts, increased to a frightful magnitude and assumed a most ruinous appearance. The people, ascribing the miseries under which they groaned to the conduct of their representatives in parliament in assenting too generally from interest or ignorance to the propositions of ministers, and conceiving that their condition could never be permanently improved without a thorough reform in the constitution of the House of Commons, assembled in vast numbers, and with resolute perseverance, to demand the change which they conceived the whole kingdom required. Seditious persons seized the opportunity of diffusing their pestilent principles, and of rendering the outcry for the abolition of useless places and pensions subservient to their own nefarious purposes; and infamous spies sent by government to acquire information of the schemes of the discontented, became the active instigators of treason and rebellion. Among these detestable agents, the most distinguished was a wretch whose name was Oliver, and who seems to have been exactly qualified for the atrocious part he was commissioned to perform. Assuring his infatuated dupes, that the elements of revolution were prepared in every part of the kingdom, and that an immense multitude had been regularly organized to effect the subversion of the government, he persuaded a number of the radical reformers in this district and in its neighbourhood, to unite in the general conspiracy, and to assemble under the character of delegates to arrange the materials and the mode of a popular explosion. At Thornhill Lees, about a dozen of these men, with the miscreant Oliver at their head, met to deliberate on the means of accomplishing this wicked object; but in the midst of their consultations they were surprised by Sir John Byng, the military commander of the district, and conveyed to Wakefield for examination, while their instigator and ringleader was permitted to escape. With the

June 6, 1817.

exception of two persons who were detained under a Secretary of State's warrant under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act on a charge of treason, all the prisoners were discharged after a long examination before Earl Fitzwilliam, the Lord Lieutenant, and a full bench of magistrates. The paltry insurrection near Huddersfield, which took place two days after the meeting at Thornhill Lees, and which was magnified by the cowardice of some and the wily policy of others into an importance it never deserved, it is not our province to describe. It is sufficient to state, that the men apprehended on these occasions and brought to trial at York, were all discharged; so that adopting the language of the gentleman by whose penetration and perseverance the machinations of Oliver were detected and exposed, "this marvellous sedition terminated without the loss of a drop of human blood either in the field or on the scaffold."*

By the continuance or revival of the distress of the manufacturing population, by the circulation of pamphlets in which sedition and blasphemy were generally identified, the agitation of the country was maintained and increased, and the meetings convened to petition for parliamentary reform were attended by such immense multitudes, and assumed such a threatening appearance, as to produce considerable dismay. The most imposing of these
A. D. 1819. meetings in this district were held on Hunslet Moor, near Leeds, at Wakefield, at Dewsbury, and at Otley. The determination of the existing ministry to resist the popular demands, was palpably displayed by the removal of Earl Fitzwilliam from the Lord Lieutenancy of the West Riding, because he had attended a county meeting at York to petition for inquiry into what was called the Manchester massacre; an act of unnecessary folly, which tended most unfortunately to increase, instead of suppressing the popular commotions. The mad insurrection in the vicinities of Huddersfield and Barnsley, in which a few silly men from the dregs of the populace, without leaders, without order, without assistance, and without arms, attempted to overturn the strongest government in the world, we leave to other writers to record. Neither have we any occasion to advert to the six famous bills against factious meetings, military training, seditious and blasphemous libels, &c. which were passed by the legislature to prevent the mischiefs which the ministry seemed to apprehend. In

* Baines's Hist. of the County of York, i. 618.

this, as in innumerable other cases, tranquillity was established and the commotion subsided upon the revival of commerce and the abatement of distress. It is seldom that an industrious people break into open violence and insurrection when the labour of their hands is sufficient to procure the necessaries of human life; but it is impossible for men to reflect or to act with calmness and submission, when their frames are emaciated with hunger, and their houses are filled with starvation and despair. For the tumults which have occasionally arisen since the period of these transactions on subjects connected with the manufacturing system, the reader is referred to the fourth chapter of the present work.

The diffusion of political information and the habit of investigating political subjects in this district, have occasionally rendered it the scene of very considerable agitation at the period of the county elections. In 1807, when a contest took place for the representation of the county unparalleled in the history of England, every town and every village was roused to intense excitement, and was the scene of incessant commotion. Lord Milton, now Earl Fitzwilliam, who had just attained his majority, entered the lists against the Hon. Henry Lascelles, now Earl of Harewood; Mr. Wilberforce, the other candidate, being supported at first by both parties, and his election being considered secure. An immense majority of the manufacturers in this district were zealously attached to the cause of Lord Milton, and by their indefatigable exertions and their formidable numbers, they gained for him a splendid victory over a preponderating proportion of the aristocracy of the county. From the commencement to the close of the poll, the whole country was in a state of tumult; all other objects of attention were for the period forgotten; and the freeholders, as they departed in bodies for the arena of political conflict, were surrounded by immense assemblages of people, who applauded or hooted as the orange or blue colours were displayed. A serious riot occurred in Leeds in consequence of the imprudence and irritability of the mayor.* A boy had offended him by shouting repeatedly and violently "Milton for ever!" and he foolishly seized the offender in the sight of the populace. The people instantly rescued the boy, and treated the mayor so unceremoniously, that in his anger or trepidation he read the riot act, called out a body of cavalry, and

May 16, 1807.

* R. R. Bramley, Esq.

endangered the lives of the multitude and the peace of the town by ordering the soldiers to scour and clear the streets. It was a happy, and under all the circumstances of the case a most remarkable fact, that though the military were frequently arrayed to intimidate and to disperse tumultuous and riotous mobs in the towns of the district, no lives were lost in the almost perpetual collision. The poll was kept open fifteen days; every thing that unbounded wealth and unwearied labour could accomplish was performed by the friends of the rival candidates; the roads were covered night and day with coaches, carriages, waggons, and military cars, conveying the voters from the remotest corners of the county; and according to the detestable system which then prevailed, immense sums were devoted to gratify the drunken passions or unprincipled cupidity of the multitude. It is well known, that after more than twenty-three thousand freeholders had given their votes, it appeared that for Wilberforce, there were 11,806—for Milton, 11,177—and for Lascelles, 10,989. The intelligence of their victory was hailed by the inhabitants of this district with every demonstration of rapturous joy; and they chaired their favourite by proxy, amidst the ringing of bells, the blazing of bonfires, and the acclamations of triumphal processions. It is sincerely to be hoped that it will never again be recorded in British history, that more than two hundred thousand pounds were expended in a fortnight by two candidates for the representation of an English county.

Nineteen years after this memorable contest, another election for the county took place which partially belongs to the history of this district. When the corrupt borough of Grampound was divested of the elective privilege, and the forfeited franchise was transferred to Yorkshire, which thus acquired the right of sending four representatives to parliament instead of two, considerable anxiety pervaded the county relative to the gentlemen who should be intrusted with the management of its affairs in the
Nov. 1825. national legislature. Richard Bethell, Esq., of Rise, who had been High Sheriff for the county in 1823, was invited to become a candidate by a numerous and respectable body of freeholders, and he acceded to their request. Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq., of Ingmanthorpe and Melton, who had been High Sheriff in 1807, and who had distinguished himself by his munificent
Dec. 1825. benefactions to Leeds, also accepted a similar invitation from his friends; and William, now the Honourable William, Duncombe,

Esq., then member of Parliament for Great Grimsby, obeyed a similar call. Lord Milton, then in London, declared that he should again tender his services to his constituents; and the Whigs by whom he was supported, believing that the greater number of the freeholders were in their favour, and deeming it desirable not to have the majority of the representatives against them, transmitted a requisition to Lord Morpeth at Castle Howard, but that young nobleman refused to comply with the application on account of circumstances which would not justify him in attempting to support the great and unavoidable expenses of a contested election.* In the mean time Mr. Stuart Wortley thought it necessary to apprise the freeholders that he should again be a candidate for their suffrages, and there is little doubt but that he would have stood a contest, had he not been called to the house of peers by the title of Lord Wharncliffe shortly before the time of election. Dec. 1825. Jan. 1826.

We now arrive at that part of the history of this election, which immediately belongs to our district. On the thirtieth of May, the day before the prorogation of parliament, the Trustees of the Mixed and White Cloth Halls in Leeds assembled, and unanimously resolved to request John Marshall, Esq. of Headingley, to become a candidate for the county; but that gentleman, before he knew of their intention, had been solicited by some of the most influential Whigs to offer himself to the freeholders, and published an address for their suffrages and support. On the third of June, the Trustees of the Leeds Cloth Halls, accompanied by several other gentlemen, presented to him a requisition signed by more than two thousand freeholders; and Mr. Marshall, in coincidence with his previous address, instantly complied with their wishes. Thus there were now five candidates in the field, Mr. Duncombe and Mr. Wilson, Tories; Mr. Bethell, a moderate Tory; and Lord Milton and Mr. Marshall, Whigs. May 29, 1826.

The Candidates commenced their canvass by addressing an assembly of from fifteen to twenty thousand persons in the Mixed Cloth Hall at Leeds; on the same day they delivered their opinions to the inhabitants of Huddersfield, and on the ensuing Thursday they spoke from the steps of the Piece Hall at Bradford. June 6.

* Speeches and addresses of the Candidates for the representation of the County of York in the year 1826, published at the Leeds Mercury Office. p. 20.

June 12. On the day of nomination, between twenty and thirty thousand people assembled in the castle yard at York, the High Sheriff, the Hon. Marmaduke Langdale, superintending the proceedings of the assembly. Lord Milton was nominated by Sir Francis Lindley Wood, and the proposition was seconded by Mr. Strickland. Mr. Bethell was nominated by Mr. Beverley of Beverley, and the proposition was seconded by Mr. Morritt of Rokeby. Mr. Wilson was nominated by Mr. Hall, the Mayor of Leeds, and the proposition was seconded by Mr. Field. Mr Duncombe was nominated by Sir John Lister Kaye, and the proposition was seconded by Sir William Foulis. Mr. Marshall was nominated by Sir George Cayley, and the proposition was seconded by Mr, Walker. The shew of hands produced no decision as to the choice of the freeholders, and it seemed that a contest was inevitable. Late in the evening of the day, however, Mr. Bethell announced his intention of retiring from a contest which could not have been carried on without involving him in ruinous expenses. His friends, notwithstanding this annunciation, made the most active exertions to provide a fund sufficient to procure his return, and the consequence was, that on the day of election, some thousands of freeholders proceeded to York to be ready for a poll. But Mr. Bethell was firm in his purpose of receding; and Lord Milton and Messrs. Marshall, Wilson, and Duncombe, were declared to be duly elected. It must not here be omitted, that although on this occasion there was no contest, but only the preparation for one, the expenses of the four candidates amounted to no less than one hundred and twenty thousand pounds.

June 20, 1826.

We have been thus particular in sketching the proceedings of this election, not only because of the vast interest which it excited in this vicinity, and because a resident in the neighbourhood of Leeds, and one of the most extensive manufacturers of the Riding, was thus returned to parliament, but because the spirit which was then excited, and the strength which was then displayed by the supporters of Mr. Marshall in this district, were productive of the most important consequences, and involved the origin of these events which have recently transpired and which have effected a wonderful change in the political state of this part of the country.

The next County Election took place in June 1830. On this occasion, Lord Milton announced to the freeholders his determi-

nation, on account of the advanced age of his father, to retire from the representation of the county of York, after having served it in parliament twenty-three years. And Mr. Marshall declared the same determination, on account of his advanced age, July 1. the great labour which devolved upon him in the discharge of his official responsibilities, the late hours in which the business of the House of Commons was transacted, and the prospect of frequent dissolutions of parliament. The whigs of this district were the means of bringing forward one of the most distinguished statesmen of the kingdom, and certainly the most powerful orator in parliament. The propriety of electing Henry Brougham, Esq. was first suggested in the Leeds Mercury; and it had no sooner been mentioned, than it became evident that his return was indubitably certain. Lord Morpeth was associated by the same party with Mr. Brougham; and on the twenty-third of July, a numerous meeting was held at Etridge's Hotel in York, when it was unanimously determined to invite both those distinguished individuals to appear as candidates for the representation of the most numerous and important constituency in the empire. Lord Morpeth and Mr. Brougham both acceded to the call, and their friends in this district immediately adopted the necessary measures to secure their election. The Honourable William Duncombe also announced his intention of again proposing himself to the freeholders—Mr. Bethell too acceded to the wishes of his numerous friends—and Martin Stapylton, Esq. aspired to the honour of entering parliament as the member for Yorkshire. Thursday, August 5th, was appointed for the day of election.

With whatever warmth the party of Mr. Brougham and Lord Morpeth might be assumed in other portions of the county, it is certain that this district afforded the greatest number of their friends, and the most enthusiastic adherents of their cause. In Leeds, the arrangements of their energetic supporters were formed with such ability, prosecuted with such perseveranee, and attended with such success, that almost the whole strength of the district, and even of the Riding, was arrayed beneath their banners. And when the day of decision arrived, an immense number of voters from this part of the county, in every kind of vehicle, proceeded to York, to place the candidates they regarded as the champions of popular rights at the head of the poll. When the High Sheriff, the Honourable Edward Petre, entered the castle yard, about twenty thousand persons were present; when

the shew of hands was called for, Mr. Stapylton was left in a wretched minority, and the poll which he demanded only served to illustrate the comparative strength of the candidates and their friends. At three o'clock on the day after the nomination, the proceedings were closed; one thousand four hundred and sixty-four votes were registered for Lord Morpeth; one thousand two hundred and ninety-five for Mr. Brougham; one thousand one hundred and twenty-three for Mr. Duncombe; one thousand and sixty-four for Mr. Bethell; and ninety-four for Mr. Stapylton. It must here be mentioned to the honour of the inhabitants of this district, that those of them who repaired to York to support the popular candidates, defrayed their own expenses, instead of encouraging, or even permitting that flagitious system of ruinous extravagance, reckless profusion, and detestable debauchery, which had prevailed to a most deplorable extent on similar occasions, and had involved a departure from upright principle, as well as an immense sacrifice of property.

We must rapidly hasten over subsequent scenes and events which every reader vividly retains in his recollection, that we may terminate this part of our work, already too protracted for our limits. When the first Reform Bill was lost notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts of the Grey administration, and when parliament was dissolved that a new appeal might be made to the principle and voice of the nation, the liberal party in this district, vastly increased in numbers and in influence, with energies effectually organised and power systematically directed, was the means of securing the return of four county members favourable to the bill, in the persons of Lord Morpeth, Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Mr. Strickland, and Mr. Ramsden. And in that memorable and appalling period of suspense, when Lord Grey and his coadjutors appeared likely to be divested of office, and the cause of Reform to be in imminent jeopardy, this district was preeminently distinguished above all others in the county, by its loud and effective remonstrances with the highest authorities in the realm, on the impolicy and infatuation of resisting the demands of the empire, and blasting its hopes of the renovation of its constitution. A more impressive scene was never presented in Great Britain, than when a hundred and thirty thousand individuals assembled at Wakefield, all devoted to one object and animated with one feeling, and resolutely, yet peaceably and legally determined to effect that great consummation for which they had so zealously

laboured, and which they had so earnestly desired. To pursue this narrative to a greater extent, would be to trench upon the history of the individual towns which are included in our plan. We must content ourselves with observing that the local interests of this district are now formally represented in parliament, in virtue of the Reform Act, by five members returned by its three most important towns. May the mighty revolution which has been effected, permanently and progressively subserve the promotion of its welfare, the prosperity of its manufactures, and the stability of its happiness!

We have thus rapidly, and we hope perspicuously, detailed the history of our district from the age of its primitive inhabitants. We have seen it, in the time of the Britons, covered with forests, without any of the demonstrations of civilized life, and inhabited by hordes of ferocious and predatory barbarians. We have seen it in the time of the Romans, assuming the aspect of a rich and cultivated province, traversed by mighty roads, adorned with populous cities, and governed by the regular authority of imperial law. We have seen it, on the ruin of the mighty empire of which it formed a constituent part, devastated by the hostile tribes of the north, overrun by the savage invaders of Germany and Denmark, the theatre of sanguinary contests, as well as the scene of royal residences, the subject of all the alternations of tranquillity and war. We have seen it in the time of the Normans, desolated by one of the most execrable tyrants whose name has defiled the page of history, and parcelled out, lands and inhabitants equally the property of the conquerors, among cowled monks or armed chieftains. We have seen it, the battle field upon which rival factions decided their quarrels at the point of the sword, and elevated or dethroned their phantoms of temporary royalty. We have seen it, during the progress of those mighty changes which overthrew the cumbrous fabric of papal superstition, and permitted the human mind to emerge from the dungeon of darkness in which it had for ages been immured. We have seen it again the place of conflict between privilege and prerogative, between royalty and republicanism, between tyranny and freedom; the houses of its nobility transformed into fortressess, and its towns into garrisons; and its peaceful vallies resounding with the thunder of artillery and the din of arms. We have seen it recovering from its depression, gradually assuming the aspect of an opulent manufacturing and commercial region,

its hamlets expanding into villages, its villages into towns, and its towns into emporiums of wealth, intelligence, and industry; its barren heaths covered with cultivation; its vallies adorned with beautiful villas; all its natural capabilities improved to the utmost, and the produce of its labour and skill contributing to the comfort of the most distant regions of the habitable globe. We have yet to advert to particulars in its history still more important; its manufactures, its literature, its benevolence, its religion, the progressive increase and comparative condition of its population, have yet to be described, and innumerable statements have yet to be made of equal moment to the philosopher, the philanthropist, and the christian. Few other districts in the world can present such varied and such instructive subjects of investigation, and none to its inhabitants of such paramount interest. Aware of the difficulty of our task, we shall proceed in our narratives, esteeming ourselves more than repaid for the arduous labour involved in our undertaking, if we can subserve the dissemination of knowledge and of charity among our fellow-citizens, and thus secure that approbation which it is our ambition and will be our honour to obtain.

CHAPTER II.

DOMESTIC HISTORY OF EACH OF THE PLACES IN THE DISTRICT.

SECTION I.—THE TOWN OF LEEDS.

We commence this Chapter with an historical description of the Borough and Liberty of Leeds. This district comprehends eleven townships, Leeds, Armley, Beeston, Bramley, Hunslet, Holbeck, Headingley with Burley, Farnley, Potternewton, Chapel Allerton, and Wortley. From the extremity of the township of Chapel Allerton to the extremity of the township of Farnley, the line of distance exceeds seven miles.

To enter upon an elaborate demonstration of the high antiquity of the town of Leeds, is totally unnecessary after some of the preceding details. It has been already shewn that a Roman station existed at Leeds, that the Roman road from Calcaria to Cumbodunum passed through the centre of the town, and that a Roman ford passed through the river a little to the east of the site of the present bridge.

We have already also stated our conviction, that the supposition entertained by some sanguine antiquaries of the ante-Roman existence of Leeds, is unworthy of attention. The appellation *Loidis* is confessedly Saxon, and is either derived from the Saxon *Loid*, a people, or is to be considered as the genitive of *Loidi*, the supposed name of the first Saxon possessor of the place.

Of the dimensions, of the population, and of the general character of Leeds in the Saxon times, nothing is known but by implication. It probably consisted, like other Saxon towns, of a collection of houses built of wood, or of mud, wattles, and straw, stone being then exclusively employed for religious edifices or monumental purposes; and the windows of these lowly habi-

tations were constituted, not of glass, but of panels of horn, fixed into wooden frames. It seems almost certain, that even in these ancient and unenviable times, a street ran in the line of Briggate, a word indubitably of Saxon antiquity, and for the same reason it may be concluded, that streets also existed on the site of the present Kirkgate and Swinegate. The Saxon church occupied the spot upon which the present old church has been built, but not a single vestige of it now remains, and no foundation has ever been discovered by which its limits and character can be ascertained.

From the notice of the place in the Doomsday Book, Leeds appears at the period of that compilation to have been rather a farming village than a considerable town. Of that notice the following is a translation.—"In Ledes, ten carucates of land, and six exgangs to be taxed. Land to six ploughs. Seven thanes held it in the time of King Edward, for seven manors. Twenty-seven villanes and four sokemen, and four bordars have now there fourteen ploughs. There is a priest and a church, and a mill of four shillings, and ten acres of meadow. It has been valued at six pounds, now seven pounds." *

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 127. Whenever a quotation is made from the Doomsday Book in this work, Bawdwen's translation is used.

VILLANES were so called, either as Blackstone says from *vilis*, mean; or as Coke says, from *villa*, because they chiefly lived in villages, employed in occupations of the basest kind. They generally belonged to lords of manors, and were of two kinds—villanes *regardant*, that is annexed to the manor or land—and villanes in *gross*, that is annexed to the person of the lord, and transferable by deed from one individual to another. They could not leave their lord without his permission; and if they either ran away or were purloined, they could be reclaimed wherever they might have taken refuge. They occupied indeed small portions of land to support themselves and their families, but it was at the mere will of the lord, who might dispossess them at his pleasure—and it was upon *villane services*, i. e. to carry out dung, to hedge and ditch, and to perform the meanest drudgery. These services were not only base, but uncertain—a villane could acquire no property either in land or goods which the lord might not seize and appropriate to his own use whenever he thought proper. Their children were in the same state of bondage with themselves.

SOKEMEN, or SOCMEN, were cultivators of the ground, who, as their name imports, were free, and held lands from the king or any other proprietor, upon the condition of performing certain definite services. Their freedom was guaranteed upon the performance of these services; and it was their privilege that no one could impose upon them any other services than those which they were under obligation to fulfil, nor institute any proceedings against

From this notice it would appear, that Leeds in the Saxon times did not contain a population of more than three hundred souls; for no principle of computation will allow a higher number of persons to be attributed to the families of the individuals mentioned in the survey, together with the subordinate labourers or others they might have employed. And if the population of Leeds is thus to be estimated, it is very improbable that the whole parish should have contained more than thrice the number which has been ascribed to the town. It further appears, that all the land in the immediate vicinity of the town was in a state of cultivation; no mention is made of either wood or waste; the proportion of only ten acres of meadow must be regarded as astonishingly small, and can only be accounted for by supposing that at this period the horses and cattle were wintered in the open air; * and the produce of the land which was under tillage, from the wretched state of husbandry and the system of oppression which generally prevailed throughout the kingdom, must have been exceedingly limited. The seven Thanes mentioned in the survey were a kind of Saxon esquires; the other individuals designated by the names which have been repeated, were occupiers of land under different tenures; while of the proportion and condition of the inferior servants, no accurate estimate can be formed. The priest was probably the most influential person among the inhabitants; his house most likely was the best; and the mill, a humble edifice with the rudest machinery, to prepare the corn for the food of the inhabitants.

It may therefore be concluded, that Leeds in the Saxon times consisted of three wretched lanes, the humblest and meanest possible representations of streets, with a population of two or

them out of the manor to which they appertained. Some of the king's sokemen were very opulent, and so were some of those attached to the great barons; but the majority were such as the Saxons called *lesser Thanes*, the Danes *young men*, and we *yeomen*, being free of blood and fit for honourable service.

BORDARS were boors or husbandmen, holding some land for the purposes of husbandry, and residing in cottages—and were so called from *Bord*, a cottage. Their condition was less servile than that of the villanes, and they held their tenements and lands on condition that they should supply their lords with poultry and other small provisions for his family and retainers. Bawdwen's Glossary of Doomsday Book. See also a most valuable paper of Dr. Kuerden's, printed in Baines's History of Lancashire, i. 66, &c.

* See Whitaker's Loid and Elm. p. 5.

three hundred semi-barbarians, the rude cultivators of the soil upon which they vegetated, with seven Thanes to hold them in the trammels of dependence, with a priest to rivet the fetters of superstition, and a church in which to behold the unintelligible mummeries which in those days of darkness were dignified with the prostituted name of Christianity. What a contrast to the appearance, the condition, and the population of the present Leeds! What a cause for gratitude, for pleasure, and yet for anxiety, is to be discovered in the mighty change!

After the preceding description it may be safely affirmed that the conjecture of a learned, though upon one subject an over sanguine antiquary, that some of the Saxon monarchs resided at Leeds,* is without the shadow of a probable foundation. Although Bede speaks of Egfrid and Osfrid, kings of Northumberland, who had their residence in Loidis, the phrase of that ancient writer beyond all doubt was used to designate the *country* of Loidis, and not the town. The royal residence to which allusion is thus made, we have already seen was situated at Osmundthorpe.

That Leeds soon after the Conquest was given to Ilbert de Lacy, to whom we have alluded in a preceding section, is evident from the Doomsday book, in which compilation it is enumerated among the possessions of that powerful baron. It is supposed that Ilbert did not long retain the manor of Leeds in his hands, because the church, we find, in 1089, to have been the property of Ralph Paganel, by whom it was given to the priory of the Holy Trinity at York, and the manor itself, as we shall presently have occasion to see, belonged at no very distant period to the same family. For these reasons it has been concluded,† and certainly with considerable probability, that Leeds was granted to the family of the Painells, or Paganels, by Ilbert de Lacy, soon after it had been constituted a part of his own extensive domains. The Paganels, therefore, may be supposed to have held Leeds under the Lacies, who, as the superior lords of the district, resided in the castle of Pontefract.

That there was a CASTLE at Leeds soon after the Conquest, is certain; and if the supposition made in the preceding paragraph be entertained, it may be further stated that this fortification was reared by the Paganels soon after they obtained the manor, to

* Thoresby's Ducat. xi. † Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete, p. 6.

secure their possessions, and to establish their authority. Whatever, however, might have been the origin and the date of the castle, it unquestionably stood upon Mill Hill, at a convenient distance from the river, and upon a gentle acclivity from its banks; with its donjon and exterior walls and towers, according to the Norman system of fortification, it no doubt gave dignity, importance, and protection to the town; and enabled its lords, with the usual habitude of feudal despotism, to domineer over their serfs and slaves. The castle was surrounded with an extensive park long since broken up, although its name is still retained, and its existence is still commemorated, in Park Lane, Park Row, Park Square, and Park Place. Two historical facts demonstrate that this castle must have been a place of consequence and strength. It was besieged by King Stephen in his march towards Scotland in 1139; and two hundred and sixty years afterwards, as we have already related, it was the scene of the temporary confinement of Richard II. prior to his barbarous murder at Pontefract. At what period, or by what means, the castle of Leeds was destroyed, cannot be discovered. Thoresby states* that it was the tradition of his time, that the old bridge was built out of its ruins. This, however, could not have been the case. The old bridge and the chantry connected with it, were certainly, as we shall presently prove, in existence in 1376; but the date of the imprisonment of Richard II. in the castle, is to be assigned to the twenty-fourth year afterwards, viz. in 1399. The castle then could not have been destroyed until some time after the erection of the bridge. It may have been abandoned by its proprietors to the violence of the tempest, to the ravages of time, and the fury of hostile invasion; and its materials may have been applied by the growing population of the town, to the construction of other buildings of convenience, of commerce, or of religion, until the walls of the once proud and formidable edifice were completely subverted, and their very foundations effectually concealed beneath the ruins and accumulations of ages.

That from the era of the Conquest to the reign of John, Leeds had rapidly increased in population and consequence, is demonstrated by the very curious charter granted at the latter period by Maurice Paganel, the mesne lord, to the burgesses of the town. In our reference to this charter, we shall adopt the same plan

* Thoresby's Ducat. 77.

which we shall pursue on similar occasions, and shall present a summary of its provisions and stipulations in the most lucid arrangement we can form, and in the most intelligible language we can select.

First, it appears, from this charter, that there was in Leeds, 1807-8. at this time, an officer called a Prætor, improperly called by the translator a Mayor, who was a mere delegate of the lord, whose office was to superintend the internal economy of the town, and to collect and pay the rent or revenue to the lord annually at Pentecost—and who having thus performed his duty, was removed from his office and another was appointed in his stead according to the pleasure of the lord, with this proviso, that a burgess should have the preference. It is to be observed at the same time, that this office was not conferred upon the ground of merit, but upon that of superiority of the price paid for the honour—"the burgesses," says the charter, "shall have the nearest claim, provided *they will give as much* for the office as another."

The jurisdiction of this Prætor extended to the superintendence of the transfer of land in the manner hereafter to be described, to a presidency in trials concerning municipal offences, and to the reception of fines from the tenants of the burgesses under particularly specified circumstances.

The fundamental grant of this charter was *free burgage* to the burgesses of Leeds, together with their tofts (viz. the homesteads, the adjoining gardens, and the usual appendages of houses) and half an acre of land attached to each in fee—but the tax of sixteen pence was to be paid to the lord, for each toft and the land connected with it.

These burgage lands might be disposed of to any individual or party, except to a religious house, and "saving the lord's superiority and the charter of the covenant." But the liberty of transferring interest in these burgage lands was saddled with this curious proviso—"the seller was to surrender the land into the hands of the Prætor or Mayor, with the payment of one penny, and then the Prætor was to deliver it to the purchaser as if the gift of the lord, with a warranty against all men, for which the purchaser was to pay a penny."

Since it seems that population had so considerably increased, that a greater number of buildings was required for their accommodation than a house on each toft could supply, the burgesses were allowed to dispose of fractions of their tofts, no doubt that

several residences might be erected on the site of one original toft—and it was provided that whoever should purchase and enter upon the possession of a portion of a toft, should have the same privileges within the borough, as though he were the owner of the whole. And the tenants of any burgess who had different houses in his toft, should be free to dispose of or to purchase any commodities within the borough, provided always that the person residing in the principal messuage should pay a yearly fine of fourpence to the Prætor. Such a person thus paying such a fine, was accounted as free as a burgess.

The legislation instituted by this charter relative to transgressions or mutual injuries, is very curious. It ordained that if a charge be brought against any burgess before the Prætor or Mayor, the full denial of the defendant should be deemed a sufficient answer to the accusation—if such a denial could not be made, the defendant should be at the mercy of the Prætor, but upon payment of the adjudged forfeiture, should recover his competency as a witness—and if such a denial be made, but not fully substantiated, the defendant should lose his cause, but with the same proviso as in the preceding case. If a burgess were impleaded for an outrage or for the shedding of blood, he was to clear himself from the charge by the oath of seven compurgators; if no blood had been shed, by three compurgators; but if a burgess be impleaded by a burgess for the same, by twelve compurgators.

The privileges conferred upon the burgesses, included all the rights, liberties, and customs enjoyed by the burgesses of Roger de Lacy—(the chief lord) at Pontefract. It was also declared that no burgess should be compelled to go out of the borough for any plea or plaint, but only for those of the crown. It was further ordained, that if any stranger accepted an oath from a burgess, he should incur the heaviest forfeiture; and that if a stranger owed a debt to a burgess, it should be lawful for such burgess to distrain upon his goods any day of the week, without leave of the Prætor or Mayor, except on fair days.

At the same time the penalty inflicted upon any deficiency in the payment of the lord's revenue, was excessively severe. That penalty was arranged upon this proportion, for every farthing of defalcation, the penalty was five shillings and a farthing; for every half-penny, ten shillings and a half-penny, and so on.

One privilege granted to the burgesses in this charter appears in these days sufficiently ludicrous. It was that the burgesses

should be permitted to bake in the lord's oven * according to custom.

Another strange privilege is memorable, as it shews the feeling exemplified towards women in those days, and as it also furnishes a striking trait in the manners of the times—it was that no woman who was to be sold into slavery should pay tribute —*i. e.* the transfer of *suck goods and chattels* † was not to be saddled with the usual tax extorted from the sale of other commodities—what must be the feeling of the ladies of modern times upon the perusal of such a clause as this?

As might be expected, this charter recognizes those monstrous superstitions, which entered into the very essence of the judicial proceedings of the Normans. For instance, if a burgess were impleaded for larceny, he cleared himself from the charge of the first offence by thirty-six compurgators—but if he were impleaded a second time, he purged himself by *the water ordeal* or *by single combat.*

The highly prosperous condition of Leeds at this period, already demonstrated by the fact that several houses were obliged to be erected upon one toft to supply accommodation to the inhabitants, is still more clearly pointed out by two other very remarkable and striking indications. First it appears, that by some mechanical process, whose nature it is impossible now to ascertain, *the Aire had already been made navigable*—and secondly, it is evident that the inhabitants of the town had availed themselves of their station and their protection, to carry on some traffic in the way of barter and exchange. For it was stated to be one of the privileges of the burgesses, *to convey grain and all other goods by land or by water* wherever they pleased, without toll or any other imposition whatever, unless the transit of the goods was prohibited by the lord or his bailiff. It needs no demonstration, that if these goods were transported by water, the river must have been made navigable by dams or some other contrivances, for the fall of water in the neighbourhood of

* This public oven, this "commune furnum," remained at Kirkgate end for some centuries after this period. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was farmed of the crown at 12 pounds per ann. though said to be worth *de claro* 120 pounds per ann.

† Another proof that in times of barbarism and corrupt religion, females are never permitted to occupy their just place in society, as the companions and equals of the lords of the creation.

Leeds is too great to allow of the passage even of the boats of the period without some such arrangement—and the export of the grain and other goods (alia mercimonia) could never have been referred to, had there not been some degree of trade. That trade may have been, and must, in the circumstances of the kingdom, have been comparatively despicable, and probably referred to a few diminutive towns or paltry villages down the streams of the Aire and Calder to the Ouse; but still even this trade must have involved some degree of agricultural assiduity, of security, and of opulence.*

There can be no doubt that this prosperity must have arisen in a great measure from the protection afforded by the vicinity of the castle from the plundering excursions of the freebooters of the times; and that the charter which has thus been analised, was conferred upon the inhabitants of the town by a family, who by frequent, and, most likely, habitual residence among them, had contracted a patriotic attachment to their interests. Irrational and detestable as the arrogant assumption of the donors of this charter must appear to the freedom and intelligence of the present age, the privileges conferred upon the burgesses must have had a beneficial influence upon their general condition; and by slightly elevating them above a state of servile dependence, must have proportionally improved their principles and character.

Having referred to the Paganels, as the resident lords of the place, we shall now briefly recapitulate the successive possessors of the manor of Leeds until the present day.

Either in or soon after the time of Maurice Paganel, who bestowed the charter we have just described, this manor reverted to the chief lords of the fee, so that in the eighteenth year of the reign of Henry III. as part of the estate of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, it was granted to Hugh de Albenei, Earl of Arundel, son of Mabel, the second of his four sisters, and co-heirs. This earl dying without issue, it seems again to have reverted to the family of Earl Ranulph, upon whose fourth sister Hawise and her heirs the earldom of Lincoln was conferred. This is rendered probable by the fact, that the next mention made of Leeds, proves A. D. 1234.

* That Dr. Whitaker was generally prejudiced, and often inaccurate, we have too frequently occasion to deplore. Let him not however be despoiled of the praise which is justly due to his diligence and learning, both of which are demonstrated in the attention which he has bestowed upon the barbaric and almost unintelligible Latin of this curious charter. Loid. and El. p. 6.

it to have been in the possession of the Lacies, John de Lacy, first earl of Lincoln of that family, having been advanced to that honour by his marriage with Margaret, daughter of Robert de Quincy, by the Lady Hawise above-mentioned. In the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Henry III. Edmund, son of John de
A.D. 1251. Lacy, obtained a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands of Pontefract, Rowell (Rothwell), Leedes, Berwick, Secroft, Bradford, Alemandbury, Windlesford (Woodlesford), Oltone, Carltone, Lofthous, Slateburn, Castleford, Methley, Grenlington, Braford (Bradford) in Bowland, Swillington, Farnlegh, Backshelf, &c. in Com. Ebor. In the fourth year of Edward II. Alice,
A. D. 1311. widow of the above-mentioned Edmund de Lacy, had assigned for her dowry the manors of Leedes, Rodwell, Berwick, Sladeburn, Grinleton, Bradford, &c. Thomas, earl of Lancaster, having married Alice de Lacy, only daughter and heiress of Hugh de Lacy, the last earl of Lincoln of that name, the manor of Leeds, with all the vast possessions of the Lacy family, were united to those of the duchy of Lancaster. When the duke of Lancaster ascended the throne with the title of Henry IV. this manor with the other ducal possessions passed to the crown, and in the crown it was vested, until the death of Anne, princess of Denmark, and consort to James I., part of whose jointure it was. At this period it was sold into private hands.

From the records in the office of the Duchy of Lancaster, it appears that the manor of Leeds was granted by Charles I. in the fourth year of his reign, to Edward Ditchfield and John Highlord, in trust for the city of London. It seems, however, to have reverted to the crown, in some unknown manner, almost immediately; for Thoresby tells us, that it was purchased of the crown by his great grandfather, Richard Sykes, Alderman of Leeds, in the years 1629 and 1636.* At the request of Harrison the benefactor, who thought that the possession of the manor by a single individual, a resident in the place, would give him too great a superiority over his fellow townsmen, and expose him to considerable odium, Mr. Sykes permitted him and several other gentlemen to become joint purchasers with him, reserving only one share for himself and another for his son.† To give a list of the

* Thorseby's Ducat. 260.

† These gentlemen were seven of the Aldermen, including Mr. Sykes and Mr. Harrison, and the son of Mr. Sykes and Wm. Marshall, Jun.

successive proprietors of this manor from this purchase to this day can be of no possible service to the reader; the present possessors are Christopher Wilson, Esq., of Ledstone, four ninths—the Marchioness of Hertford one ninth—Mrs. Rachel Milnes one ninth—the Rev. F. T. Cookson one ninth—C. Beckett, Esq. one ninth—the executors of the late C. Bolland, Esq. one ninth.

We shall dismiss the subject of the Manor of Leeds by stating that a Court Leet is still held by the Lords, at which a Jury is impanelled to preserve the weights and measures at the proper standard, and to resist all encroachments upon the manorial rights. But we must return to the order of our history.

SECTION II.

THE TOWN OF LEEDS CONTINUED.

For a long series of years no authentic intelligence can be communicated of the state of Leeds. There can be no doubt that the municipal jurisdiction arranged by the charter of Maurice Paganel, ceased when the castle was demolished, and that even all recollection of its existence soon passed away. For when the inhabitants of Leeds applied to Charles I. through Lord Savile of Howley, for a charter of incorporation, they never referred to this ancient constitution of the place; a fact which can only be accounted for by supposing that they were completely ignorant of the honours and privileges which had been bestowed upon the ancient inhabitants of their town. It is conjectured by Dr. Whitaker, that soon after the reign of Richard II. the town of Leeds was absorbed once more in the great fee of Pontefract, so that there was no longer any interest in the lords to exercise a local jurisdiction, nor any power in the burgesses to maintain their rights against antagonists so powerful as those of the principal town.*

After the lapse of five hundred years, we arrive at some authentic information of the condition of the town communicated in the brief notice of Leland. That writer thus speaks of it, "Ledes, two miles lower down than Christal Abbay, on Aire river, is a praty market toune, having one paroche chirch, reasonably well builded, and as large as Bradeford, but not so quik as it."† From the same author we learn, that if Leeds at this period was not so populous as Bradford, it was considerably less than Wakefield, which was much larger than Bradford.‡ It is extremely probable that Leeds was then only just arising from the depression of ages,

* Whit. Loid and Elm, p. 12.

† Leland vii. 54. Leland flourished circiter 1530—1552.

‡ See our account of Bradford in chapter III.

that its manufactures had only very recently been introduced among its inhabitants, and that it was only commencing that career of industry and enterprise which has elevated it to the primary rank among the towns of Yorkshire.

A few scattered and unconnected notices relative to the town, we here collect, few of them being important, but none of them uninteresting to the inhabitants. We find a Mr. Thomas Wade leaving by his will, dated 1530, a portion of his estate, under certain conditions which there is no occasion to recite, to be devoted to the repair of some of the highways of Leeds and its vicinity, The letters of patent of Henry VIII. granting the presentation to the parish church, to Thomas Culpepper, Esq. the foundation A. D. 1552.
of the Grammar School, and the devotion of an old chapel near A. D. 1558.
the north bar for its use—the purchase of the advowson of the A. D. 1582.
vicarage by the parishoners—the changes which were made in the A. D. 1608.
interior of the old church for the accommodation of the people—and the unparalleled munificence of the benefactor, Harrison, will be described in their respective places in the subsequent parts of this work. A survey of the manor of Leeds was made in the ninth year of the reign of James I, which notices three Waugh Milns in the town; *fulling mills* are stated to have existed near the castle in the reign of Edward III. Some estimate may be formed of the population of the town and parish in the time of James, from a bill of complaint exhibited in Chancery, dated November 3, 1615, in the name of the principal inhabitants of the district. In this plaint it is stated, that "the said town and parish being very large and populous, consisted of five thousand communicants, or more, of though some were three or four miles distant from the parish church, yet nevertheless three or four thousand of them ordinarily resorted thither every sabbath day, &c."* Now even supposing this statement to have been considerably exaggerated by the applicants (which from the dimensions of the only church in Leeds at that period it must have been) still it is evident that population

* The persons who signed this complaint, were Sir John Wood, knight; Sir John Savile, knight; Sir Philip Carey, knight; Sir Arthur Ingram, knight John Falkingham, esq.; Edward Fairfax, gent.; Scott Skelton, gent.; William Bayntun, gent.; Robert Waterhouse, gent.; Thomas Ellis, gent.; William Marshall, John Metcalf, Richard Sykes, Thomas Brough, Joseph Hillary, William Parker, George Netleton, John Watson, Matthew Cooper, Robert Pickersgill, Peter Jackson, and Ralph Cooke, all of the town and parish of Leeds. It will be seen from this that the inhabitants of Leeds were connected with some of the first families in the county.

was rapidly increasing, and that a laudable attention was paid to the ordinances of divine worship, and the maintenance of public morals.

A. D. 1520. Five years after the communication to the court of Chancery, an inquisition under a commission of Charitable Uses, was made into the administration of the principal charities in the borough of Leeds. To this inquisition we only refer at present in order to point out a curious circumstance in the ancient municipal economy of the town. It appears that a toll was exacted from the corn brought into the market. This *Toll Dish*, as it was called, was, according to an order of the duchy chamber of Lancaster, distributed in the following manner—one third was payable to the bailiff, then the principal officer in the town; another third was given to the poor; and another third was devoted to the repair of the highways. To collect the toll and to secure its division according to this arrangement, two persons were appointed, one by the bailiff, and another by the committee, who on every market-day discharged their functions, and collected and divided the tax. These regulations, which as we shall soon see, were confirmed by the charter of 1661, though most impolitic and absurd, were continued to the close of the last century, when they were wisely remitted, since it was found that the tax produced only about seventy pounds a year, that it could not be levied without considerable difficulty, and that it excited perpetual opposition and disgust. Whatever may be thought of the intentions of the authorities at this period in making such enactments as these, no very high opinion can be formed of the policy upon which they conducted their municipal administration; thus retarding the prosperity of the town by taxing its markets, and subserving imaginary benevolence by grievous oppression. The grant of Charles I. of the king's mills in Leeds, to Edward and William Ferrers, under which the

A. D. 1631. Soke in this town at present exists, is an example of royal legislation of a similar character—it was the sacrifice of the interest of the many to the emolument of the few.

Immediately prior to the commencement of the civil war,

Nov. 29, 1638. Leeds was compelled, according to the arbitrary practice of those unhappy times, to furnish its proportion of ship money. The government agent at York sent orders to the corporation of Leeds, to levy from the inhabitants their quota "towards the setting out of one shippe of fower hundred and fifty tunne, beside (tunnage) to be furnished with men, tackle, munition,

victual, and other necessaryes, for the safeguard of the seas, and the defence of the realme." The functionary of the court in this communication declared his conviction, that the town was highly favoured in "having but to pay seventy-two pounds towards soe great a charge." The directions given for the levying of this money are sufficiently amusing, "First, ther is required expe-dic'on; secondly that noe poore labouring people be assessed, but suche as have estates in lands or goods, or live by some gaineful trade, for it is concieved that the assessing poore people will cause a clamour and p'judice the service, which in itself is most honourable and just. Thirdly that the clergie be used with all favour." This mandate was transmitted to Leeds in the very year when the celebrated John Hampden refused to pay his contribution to the ship money. Although the sentence, after an argument before the twelve judges, was given against Hampden, yet the result was, and Leeds no doubt felt it in all its extent and importance, to promote the violence of the popular leaders, and to excite additional prejudice against the proceed-ings of the crown.

The participation of Leeds in the agitations and miseries of the conflict between the parliament and the king, we have already related—we therefore hasten to the narration of other events of equal interest, and of superior importance, because of more permanent influence.

Besides the calamities of war, Leeds at this disastrous period See A. 93-4. was afflicted with the horrors of the plague. By this dreadful scourge Yorkshire had been repeatedly visited during the pre-vious hundred years. In the year 1544 it appeared among the inhabitants of the southern districts of the Riding. In 1563 the garrison of Havre de Grace again introduced it into England, the infection was soon conveyed to the north, and various affecting memorials have been preserved of its ravages. Those ravages recurred with only a few years' interval, more particularly during the following eighty years. The years 1596 and 97 were very calamitous at Leeds, the dead-roll increasing from 120 to 311.* The pestilence broke out with tremendous violence in this town in March, 1644-5, and by the twenty-fifth of December, 1325 persons, or more than one fifth of the population, had perished. The disease was not confined to the closest and most densely inhabited parts of the town, but extended to its most open

* Thoresby's Ducat, p. 152.

districts and its most airy suburbs. At the same time its ravages were the most fatal in the streets and lanes where the poorest, the worst fed, the worst clothed, and the worst housed resided. The greatest number of its victims were found in Marsh Lane, the Calls, Call Lane, Vicar Lane, the Vicar's Croft, Lower Briggate, and Mill Hill. Some persons are expressly stated to have died in North Hall Orchard. So great was the consternation, that all who were able fled from the scene of contamination and death; the grass grew in the deserted streets; the markets were removed to Woodhouse; the doors of the old church were closed; and if the testimony of contemporaneous witnesses is to be credited, the very birds fell dead as they flew over the town.*

Amidst all the horrors of this dreadful visitation, one circumstance occurred, which the writer with pleasure records, and to which the reader will delight to refer. There is a kind of moral intrepidity—a courage in adhering to ascertained duty and sacred obligation, undismayed by danger, or suffering, or death, infinitely superior in nature, infinitely more beneficial in result, and infinitely more deserving of admiration and applause, than all the warlike heroism whose deeds historians have ever celebrated, and whose praises poets have ever sung. Two instances of this holy resolution were presented in Leeds in this season of general desolation and dismay. Robert Todd, who was then the minister of St. John's Church, and whose memory Dr. Whitaker has treated with sarcastic and bigotted contempt, because "he was a nonconformist at heart," remained at his post to administer the consolations and instructions of religion to those who were trembling on the brink of the grave. And when Robert Saxton, whom the same learned historian designates "a mere intruder," but whom, from a contemporary and much better authority,† we know to have been a zealous and truly pious man, assumed the charge of the parish of Leeds, he immediately opened the Old Church for the celebration of religious ordinances; divine worship, which in that edifice had been suspended, was restored; and from the cha-

*An interesting memorial of this dreadful visitation was obtained in November, 1790, when as some workmen were digging clay in a field now occupied by part of George Street, they discovered fifty oak coffins containing human bones, and supposed to have been deposited there at the time of the plague.

†Report of the Commission for surveying and subdividing the parishes in the north of England, quoted by Thoresby, Vic. p.

racter of the man, who had previously displayed a sacred composure and courage in the most appalling emergency,* there can be little doubt that he visited the abodes of the diseased and the beds of the dying, and pointed out to the victims of cruel pestilence, the path to immortality and eternal life.

In the history of this awful calamity, another circumstance occurred too remarkable to be passed over without observation. It appears from the parish register, that in August, 1645, one hundred and thirty one persons died of the disease, "before the plague was perceived." This very striking fact, either argues a most deplorable deficiency of medical knowledge, or the miserable condition of the municipal police, or a reckless and scandalous neglect of the necessities and wretchedness of the poor. How far the first of these evils prevailed at this period, must be determined by those who are better versed than the writer in the local history of medical science; but it is certain that both the second and the third are to be considered as the natural and necessary results of civil war—civil war, the direst and the most accursed calamity by which a nation can possibly be visited—steeling the heart of humanity, blasting every appearance of individual happiness, of social peace, and general prosperity—inflaming against each other with every execrable, malignant, and infernal passion, the subjects of the same government, the inhabitants of the same town, the inmates of the same house, the children of the same father—and proving the prolific source, in every country in which it exists, of universal demoralization and depravity, and of every crime which is disgraceful to human nature. What a wonderful contrast between the state of Leeds in 1644 to that of the same town in 1832! Who can recollect the wise and salutary precautions to prevent the spread of pestilence in the latter year, the indefatigable exertions of consummate medical skill, the effectual assistance which was instantaneously and gratuitously afforded to every case of disease, and the benevolent liberality which relieved the destitution and supplied the necessities of the poor, without sincere and ardent gratitude for the mighty change which has taken place in public spirit and public feeling in the lapse of two centuries? We are often too prone to extol, without knowing perhaps what we mean, "the good old times;" while, however, we applaud whatever was excellent in the past, let us not be insensible to the incalculable superiority of the present.

* See an anecdote of him in Thoresby, ubi sup. Whit. 34.

Before we dismiss this account of epidemic distempers at Leeds, we must be permitted to make rather a ludicrous extract from the appendix to Thoresby's great work.* "In December, 1675, was an epidemic distemper, profanely called the *Jolly Raut;* it was a severe cold and violent cough which not only affected York, Hull, Halifax, in these parts, but the counties of Westmoreland, Durham, Northumberland, &c.; the weekly bills of mortality in London were also increased three hundred. I was too young or inobservant to make such remarks as might be of use; but very well remember that it affected all manner of persons; and that so universally, that it was almost impossible to hear distinctly an entire sentence of a sermon," &c. From the noise which occasionally resounds in our places of worship, it might be imagined that we were sometimes troubled with the visitation of the same disease in the present day. This "stercorarian roar" is as indecorous and annoying, as in nine cases out of ten it might be easily suppressed. It is certainly one way of gaining publicity, and of developing the vocal powers of the individual.

While Cromwell governed the British empire, and extended its reputation throughout the civilized world, an event occurred with reference to Leeds, which was certainly one of the most remarkable and interesting in the course of its history. This event was the fact of its having a representative in parliament. That representative was Adam Baynes, Esq. of Knowsthorp, a captain in the parliamentary army. It appears from a letter written by a Mr. Walker to Mr. Alderman Thwaytes, that this honour was procured for the town of Leeds by the influence of Mr. Baynes himself. The words of Mr. Walker are, "Capt. Baynes, as I am credibly informed, out of courtesy and good will procured the town this honour; but for him it had not been; now we shall render ourselves unthankful persons indeed, if at the first election we give that coat of honour to another which he won for us; far be it from us." That Captain Baynes was not unworthy of the votes of the burgesses of Leeds, as it has been absurdly stated,† is evident. He was the member of a respect-

* Ducat. App. 151.

† Dr. Whitaker, in alluding to this event, says, "In a miscellaneous account of the town of Leeds, it would be unpardonable to omit that it was once represented in parliament, though at a period of which it has little

able family, he was possessed of a plentiful fortune, and he had acquired considerable experience in the transaction of business. The pedigree in Thoresby proves the first of these statements; the second is substantiated by the purchase which Mr. Baynes made of the manor of Holdenby in Northamptonshire, for which he paid twenty-nine thousand pounds; and the third is confirmed by the letter above quoted, which declares him to have been "long trained up in several committees." General Lambert was the great patron of Captain Baynes; and his influence, according to the same Mr. Walker, was expected to be highly beneficial. The candidate for parliamentary honours was duly elected and A. D. 1654
returned; and his letter of thanks to his principal supporters deserves insertion in this place, and may be compared with the style of similar documents which have recently been presented to the electors of Leeds.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I understand by letters from Dr. Diveroe and other good friends, how exceedingly you have obliged me beyond my deserts and expectations, so that I am at a loss for power and abilities, nay even for expressions, to shew my gratitude for the same. And therefore can only return you my affections, which shall ever continue to supply all other defects to do you faithful service; to which end I desire you to look upon me as one ever ready to receive and obey your commands in every thing tending to your service. And in order thereunto, I make bold to hint to you, how short a time it is before the parliament beginneth to sit, and also the multiplicity of business that the next parliament will have, to the end that you may lose no time in preparing your commands for me, either in relation to your government, civil or political, or any thing else that may concern you. To which end my humble advice to you is, that you will study peace and love amongst yourselves (if any thing contrary be) that you may be as unanimous as may be in your meetings, for an house or a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand; and in all your consultations let me beg of you to endea-

reason to be proud. As little reason has it to rejoice in its single representative, Adam Baynes, of Knowsthorp, a creature of Lambert." The observation, as to Mr. Baynes, may be safely left to the refutation furnished by the narrative in the text. It is, however, an instance of gratuitous condemnation which does no honour to its author.

vour the promotion of the clothing trade, which you know, under God, is the greatest means of most of your well beings; and to that end let every man divest himself of self, and adhere to that which may be for the public good, which will be great honour and comfort to you, and satisfaction to him that is,

Gentlemen, your most obliged and faithful servant,

July 18, 1654. A. BAYNES.

For my honoured friend, Mr. Alderman Thwaytes, and the rest of my good friends in the precincts of Leeds."

Making the necessary allowance for the difference of style, this letter may be compared with our modern productions of the same class; there are the same expressions of gratitude, the same protestations of unbounded service, the same kind recommendations of charity, the same attention to the manufacturing interest, and it may be added, the same concealed and very natural exultation. We have no means of ascertaining in what manner Captain Baynes redeemed his "pledges," no doubt quite as well as most members of parliament do. After the restoration, he was compelled to give up his purchase of Holdenby, he retired to his
A. D. 1670. patrimonial estate at Knowsthorp, where he lived unmolested to his death, The house of his family in that village will be noticed in another part of this work.

We must now solicit attention to the bridge, and some of the buildings in Leeds, erected prior to the eighteenth century.

That there was a bridge over the river Aire on the spot where the present edifice stands, in the period anterior to the conquest, appears highly probable, at any rate, from the name of the principal street of the town, which implies a bridge already existing, and "which," says the continuator of Thoresby, "can scarcely be conceived as of less than Saxon antiquity."* It is most likely that this bridge, existing in the Saxon times, had fallen into decay and ruin, and that passengers were conveyed across the river by a ferry, the ferry house standing on the site of the present Golden Lion Inn. It was the tradition in Thoresby's time, that the bridge was built out of the ruins of the castle,† but that tradition was certainly unfounded. It is certain that the bridge was in existence in the year 1376, and that a chapel was attached to it, that travellers, in commencing their journeys, might enjoy the

* Whit. 88. † Thoresby 77.

privilege of early mass.* This chapel must have been built at the same time with the bridge, for when its remains were pulled down, seventy-three years ago, its foundation stones were found to be completely incorporated with those of the bridge. The chapel stood on the north east corner of the bridge, it was a chantry dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. About 1515 it had three burgages, ten houses, and cottages and lands called St. Mary's Ings, then valued at £4. 6s. 8d. Robert Hopton was the chantry priest at that time. After the Dissolution, it was applied to the purposes of a school, and continued so until the year 1728, when it was transformed into a warehouse. Of Leeds bridge, Thoresby speaks in the following terms. "The bridge here is strong and robust, being made of large squared stones; and if in the number of pillars and arches, it be equalled by many and outdone by some, 'tis however in one respect peerless, that the memorable cloth-market, the very life of these parts of England, was kept upon the bridge." At the period of its first erection, and long afterwards, this bridge must have been extremely narrow and inconvenient; it was widened in 1730 for double carriages; it was improved in a similar manner in 1760 and 1796; and it has lately undergone some alterations by which the steepness of the ascent from Hunslet lane, equally incommodious and dangerous, has been mitigated. On the west side of the ancient bridge was a flight of stone stairs, called "the Greice† on the west side of the bridge," and built 1583 of stones brought from Kirkstall Abbey. Strange must be the difference between the aspect of Leeds Bridge now, and that which it presented shortly after its erection—then witnessing the occasional transit of a haughty nobleman and his mailed retainers proceeding upon some expedition of rapine and revenge—or of cowled monks, engaged in the business of their convents, or mendicant friars imposing upon the credulity and fleecing the pockets of the poor—or of miserable serfs, ignorant as brutes, and degraded to the lowest stage of humanity—with no indications of commerce, with no appearance of opulence, with little to animate or to interest the feelings of the observer—now from morning to night reverberating with the wheels of countless carriages, crowded with passengers, and the means of con-

* See Scatcherd's Tract on Ancient Chapels connected with Bridges.

† Greice from the French Grez, Latin Gradus.

veying the rich manufactures of one of the most important and industrious regions in the kingdom, to the remotest countries of the globe.

Of the buildings in Leeds during the middle ages, but little intelligence can be communicated. Besides the Castle, the Old Church, and the Chantries, of which the history will be given in the following book, there was in the vicinity of Lidgate, in one of the highest parts of the town, a Tower, probably erected to strengthen the defences of the place and to extend the protection of the castle. In the manuscripts which Thoresby saw belonging to the Lords of the Manor, this elevation, from the building it sustained, was called Tower Hill; and when in 1695 some workmen were forming a vast excavation for a reservoir of water, which was intended to be conveyed in leaden pipes to every part of the town, they found some prodigious stones and the ruins of a great wall, which were concluded to have been the foundations of the fabric.

It is interesting to refer to the progressive improvement which took place in the appearance and comfort of Leeds and the other towns in the district, corresponding with the changes which were introduced into domestic architecture. We have already referred to the hovels of the Saxons, composed of wattles and mud, with their roofs of thatch supported upon crooks, without pavements, without chimneys, and without convenience. No material alteration took place in the construction of houses through the long period of the middle ages, down to the accession of the Tudors. The residences of the more substantial inhabitants or burgesses were indicated by their greater size, and by their rude decorations or rather deformities; but in no other respects were they distinguished from the cottages of the poorer families in the community. When manufactures, however limited and defective, began to diffuse comparative wealth; when a settled government and an increasing population imparted stability and extension to social transactions; when new wants and new ideas of comfort were introduced by wider and safer communication with the distant districts and more refined cities of the kingdom; and when the iron oppression of feudal tyranny and extortion, which had completely weighed down the prosperity and insuperably prevented the advancement of the great body of the people, was effectually and permanently diminished; the auspicious revolution was soon demonstrated in a better style of domestic architec-

ture, and a more rational and general attention to relative convenience. The houses, it is true, were constructed only of the perishable materials of wood and plaister; but the smoke no longer curled in eddies through the wretched apartments to escape only by the windows or the door; the number of stories was increased; the arrangments of the interior were better adapted both to the health and the comfort of the family; and the external appearance of the dwellings, if barbarously grotesque, was far more imposing and respectable than at any previous period. Some of these wood and plaister houses were of considerable dimensions, and rested upon a low basement of stone, upon which was placed a wall plate of oak from which the superior principals ascended.

When wood became scarce and dear, the houses in Leeds were built of stone derived from the immediate vicinity of their site, but by no means adapted either for beauty or durability. The appearance of the town by these changes for the better in the style of building, was still further improved by the introduction of brick. For the manufacture of this material, the coarse strong clay with which the parish abounds is admirably adapted; and the fire bricks, which are formed from a bed of clay still lower in the ground, are equal in character and appearance to any similar article in the kingdom. We shall now refer to some of the old houses in Leeds.

Rockley Hall, in Lowerhead Row, was the seat of the ancient family of the Rockleys, from whom it derived its name. It was an example of the wood and plaister style of building, and like all others of a similar character and date, displayed a vast profusion of the former material. It consisted of a centre and two wings, with a pointed doorway at the lower end of the central part. Thoresby, who saw both it and its representative before it was degraded to its present purposes, says of it, "It was a timber building, and of the most antique form of any I have seen; instead of deals or boards for the floors, were oak planks of so considerable a thickness, that joysts were made of them for the new brick building that succeeds it in name as well as place.*" The last mention of the family of the Rockleys, who built this hall, occurs in a deed dated 1501. The hall itself, with a considerable tract of land, was bought by the celebrated benefactor Harrison,

* Ducat 27.

who devoted the rents to pious and benevolent uses. The second Rockley Hall is now transformed into cottages.

The Red Hall, at the western end of Upper Head Row, was so called because it was the first house in Leeds which was built of brick. It was erected, in 1628, by Thomas Metcalf, afterwards one of the Aldermen of Leeds. In this house Charles I. was lodged when the Scots were conveying him from Newark to Newcastle, and here occurred that instance of female loyalty, which we have already recited. This event was long commemorated by the name of the King's chamber, which was imposed upon the apartment in which the unfortunate monarch reposed. The Red Hall is now so surrounded with more recent buildings, that it is seldom remarked by the passing observer.

The Chantry at the north-west corner of Briggate, now occupied by the publisher of this work, will be alluded to in its proper place.

In Boar Lane, of which Thoresby says, "this not being so close built as the rest of the town, has several gentlemen's houses therein," was formerly a large edifice, the residence of Sir William Lowther, who sustained with reputation the office of
A. D. 1681. High Sheriff for the county. This house was pulled down in 1750, by Jeremiah Dixon, Esq. then its owner, who rebuilt it in a very handsome manner, the stone used for the front having been brought from Huddlestone quarry. It is now occupied by Thomas Bischoff, Esq., the superintendent of the Branch of the Bank of England, and still forms one of the most conspicuous objects in the town.

Another house of some antiquity in Briggate, opposite to the east end of Boar Lane, and with a quadrangular court in the middle, must be referred to on account of a singular peculiarity in its construction. It was built by the celebrated benefactor Harrison, who had one of the most extraordinary peculiarities which can belong to any man's character, viz. a ludicrously extravagant attachment to cats; and in this house he had a number of holes and passages cut in the doors and the ceiling to allow of their free ingress and egress. This building was first converted into a dwelling house and shops, then it was well known as the King's Arms Tavern, and it is now the site of the Leeds Mercury Offices.

Two edifices which formerly stood in Briggate demand a reference in this work, though they have been pulled down some

years since. The Moot Hall, a small and inconvenient place for the session of the magistrates, which was built in 1710, stood nearly opposite the point where Commercial Street and Kirkgate enter into Briggate. The original town hall was built with money belonging to the poor, and yielded to them in 1620, according to an account of gifts on two tables in the old church, twenty-two pounds, sixteen and eightpence. This was no doubt the produce of the shops and rooms under the Hall. From the Moot Hall, for a distance of one hundred and twenty yards, extended before the recent improvements,* a row of houses dividing Briggate into two wretched alleys, called the Shambles, and the back of the Shambles; and opposite to the upper extremity of this deformity, in that part of Briggate then called Cross Parish, stood the Cross. A cross in this situation was first erected by Mr. Harrison; in 1776 the old cross was taken down, and a new one was erected, and this in its turn was removed about ten years since.

At the north eastern extremity of New Street stands the parsonage house belonging to St. John's church, built by the founder of that edifice, but so changed in its exterior by two successive alterations of the front, that nothing of its antique character remains.

The Talbot Inn, in a yard proceeding from Briggate, but once standing to the front of that street, was indubitably one of the most ancient houses in Leeds. Up to the commencement of the last century, it contained a chamber painted in fresco, with the arms of the principal nobility and gentry of the West Riding in Elizabeth's time. These decorations have long since disappeared, and in 1700 the front part of the building was converted into shops and warehouses. The Old George Inn, also in Briggate, is a house of considerable antiquity. One hundred and fourteen years ago, it was advertised as "an ancient and well-accustomed house." At that period it stood in the cloth-market, and its situation must have been highly convenient and advantageous.

A stone house in Wade Lane of the age of the Tudors, never fails from its singular and interesting appearance to excite the attention of the passenger. This has been supposed by some to be the representative of the ancient manor house of Leeds. The

* These improvements will soon be described at length.

supposition however cannot be correct if the testimony of Thoresby be received, that author having expressly asserted that the manor house stood on the site of the castle, and having also stated that it was standing in his time.* It is certain that during the time of the encampment of the royal army in the neighbourhood of Leeds in 1745, it was the residence and head-quarters of Marshal Wade.

Among the ancient buildings of Leeds, the Workhouse may be enumerated. It formerly consisted of "one large and strong fabric built of free-stone," by Alderman Richard Sykes, about 1630; and was for many years employed as a hospital for the reception of the aged poor. In 1740 it was very much improved, and capacitated for its present purpose. Of the mode in which the workhouse is conducted, some account will be given in another place. It may however here be stated, that a public-spirited individual almost two years ago, proposed † that sufficient land should be procured in the neighbourhood of Woodhouse Moor, for the erection of suitable buildings for a new Workhouse, with ground enough adjoining for the production of all the vegetables which might be required for the institution, by the labour of its inmates. It is sincerely to be deplored, that this plan has never been carried into effect, and that the vast improvement it would involve, both in the moral and physical condition of the poor, has not been accomplished.

Austrope Hall, situated by the footpath leading from the new wooden bridge over the Aire at School Close to Meadow Lane, and not far from the Friends' Meeting-house, is a very old building, though its exterior has been comparatively modernised from its ancient state. The old house, which was probably built in the latter part of the fifteenth century, was composed of timber; and one of its wings, perhaps the last specimen of its kind in the town, was pulled down about thirty-three years since. To the west of Austrope Hall is another ancient house, now completely surrounded with buildings, which seems to have been the Water Hall of Thoresby. Since however the name and history of this, and many other similar edifices in the old parts of the town, are now completely unknown, it is scarcely worth while to swell the bulk of the volume by pointing them out to the reader.

Although it may be anticipating the order of time, yet this is

* Ducat. 3. † See a letter in the Leeds Mercury, dated June 22, 1831.

the proper place to mention, that the best house in the town of Leeds at the commencement of the last century, and for some time afterwards, was built a little to the west of Call Lane, by John Atkinson, Esq, mayor of Leeds in 1711. Thoresby calls this "a delicate house, that for the exquisite workmanship of the stone work, especially the dome, and for a painted stair-case excellently performed by Mons. Parmentier, excels all in the town."* This house was long the post-office, and the residence of the post-master of Leeds, and was finally pulled down when the Central Market was built.

* Ducat. 76.

SECTION III.

THE TOWN OF LEEDS CONTINUED.

A. D. 1621. The borough of Leeds was first incorporated by Charles I. Upon this incorporation we shall not offer any observations, on account of the superior importance and interest of the charter of his son, and because the form of the first incorporation differed but little from that of the second. In the second charter, the following reference is made to the act of Charles I.—"Our most dear father Charles the First, lately King of England of blessed memory, by his letters patent under the great seal of England, made bearing date the thirteenth day of July, in the second year of his reign, of his special grace did ordain, grant, and appoint, the town aforesaid to be a free borough of this his realm of England, and that under the name of the borough of Leedes aforesaid, the whole parish of Leedes should be comprised, and that all and every the inhabitants of the town and parish of Leedes aforesaid, and their successors thenceforth for ever, should be and continue one body corporate and politic in thing, fact, and name, by the name of aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Leedes, in the county of York; and should have, exercise, and enjoy, divers liberties, privileges, powers, and authorities, in those letters patent particularly specified." Under the charter of Charles I. Sir John Savile, the builder of Howley Hall, and at that period the great patron of Leeds, was the first mayor, and in that capacity he was so highly respected, that his arms, known by the name of Hullarts, were adopted by the town. He did not however formally discharge the functions of his office, which were performed for him by the celebrated Harrison. John Clayton, Esq., was the first recorder, and George Banister the first town clerk.

In the thirteenth year of his reign,* Charles II. granted a new charter to Leeds. This charter merits peculiar attention, and we shall therefore endeavour to give a complete arrangement and analysis of its contents.

This charter was granted upon the petition of the merchants, clothworkers, and other inhabitants of the borough; and its object was, to protect them from "the many great abuses, defects and deceits," which had been discovered "in the making, selling, and dying of woollen cloths," by fraudulent individuals, to the injury of the manufacture itself, and to the prejudice of the royal customs and revenue.

The limits of the borough of Leeds are repeatedly stated in this charter to be commensurate with those of the parish.

The constitution of the CORPORATION of Leeds by this charter, was thus arranged. First "one of the more honest and discreet burgesses or inhabitants of the borough," was to be chosen from time to time who should be called MAYOR of the borough. Secondly, "twelve of the more honest and discreet burgesses, inhabitants of the borough," were to be chosen and called ALDERMEN of the borough. Thirdly, twenty-four "able and discreet" inhabitants of the borough were to be elected as ASSISTANTS. And the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants, were to be called the COMMON COUNCIL of the borough.

Concerning the office of MAYOR, the following are the arrangements of the charter. First, his office was to be annual; he was to continue in office from the feast of St. Michael in the year of his election, to the same feast in the ensuing year. Secondly, his election was to be in the hands of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants for the time being, or the greater part of them. Thirdly, he was to be one of the Aldermen, who alone were rendered eligible to the office. Fourthly, he was rendered incapable of entering upon the functions of his office, unless within the seven days ensuing upon his election he should take the Oath of Allegiance, and the Corporation Oath, "rightly, well, and faithfully, in and through all things to the said office belonging," to execute the office of the Mayor of the borough. Fifthly, if any one of the Aldermen chosen to be Mayor, refused to assume the office, a new election was to be made of some other Alderman.

* A. D. 1661. Charles II. dated the commencement of his reign from the death of his father in 1648.

Sixthly, when an Alderman refused to take upon himself the office of Mayor, after having been regularly elected, the Mayor, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common Council, were impowered to impose upon the recusant, "such reasonable fines, pains, penalties, and amerciaments, or sum of money," as they might deem requisite upon the occasion; if the recusant refused to pay the fine, then the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council were empowered to issue their warrant under their common seal, to levy by distress the required amount upon his goods and chattels; the value being appraised by "four honest men inhabitants and householders of the borough:—and in default of payment, the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council were further empowered to commit the refractory individual to prison, until the fine imposed was discharged. Seventhly, it was provided by the charter, that if any Mayor, after his election and actual introduction to his station, should "misbehave himself in his office and undertaking," the aldermen and assistants were endowed with full power and authority to remove him from his place. And it was further provided, that if any Mayor were to die during the time of his office, the Aldermen and Assistants were to "chuse and nominate some other able and fit man of the Aldermen of the borough" to be mayor in the place of the deceased individual for the residue of the year.

With reference to the ALDERMEN, the following enactments were made. They were to sustain their office for life, unless by "their evil behaviour, or evil carriage, or for some other reasonable cause," they should render it necessary that they should be removed from their place, by the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council of the borough. In the event of the death or removal of an Alderman, the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council, or the greater part of them, were to "elect and appoint a successor from the number of the Assistants. Every Alderman upon his appointment was to take before the Mayor, or in his absence two of the Aldermen, an oath, "well and faithfully" to execute the duties of his office.

Concerning the ASSISTANTS it was ordained, that they were to continue in office during their lives, though removable, like the Aldermen, from office, in the event of "evil behaviour or some other reasonable cause," by the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council, or the greater part of them. In the event of the death or removal of any Assistant, the Mayor, Aldermen, and

Assistants were empowered to elect a successor "out of the better and more honest burgesses of the borough, or of any of the inhabitants within the liberties of the same." Each Assistant upon his election, was to take an oath before the Mayor, or in his absence before two of the Aldermen, "well and faithfully to execute his office."

Besides these functionaries, the Charter provided, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, were to have in the borough, "one honest and discreet person, in the laws of the realm of England learned," to be called the RECORDER. It was ordained that his office was to be for life, but that "not well behaving himself in his office, or for other reasonable cause," he should be removed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common Council, or the greater part of them. The appointment of the Recorder was not vested in the hands of the Common Council, but was reserved by the king, "at the humble request or petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses." The Recorder, upon his appointment, was to take an oath before the Mayor, or in his absence before two Aldermen, "to do and to execute well, truly, and faithfully, in all things, and through all things, that place concerning."

The Recorder by the Charter was impowered to nominate a DEPUTY, "learned in the laws of England," and "a sufficient and discreet personage." The power of this deputy is described in the following words; he "may and shall have as full power and authority in all and every the things to the said office of recorder of that borough belonging or appertaining, to all intents and purposes, as the recorder of the borough for the time being, by virtue of these presents, may and shall have." The deputy upon his appointment was to take an oath similar to that of the recorder, before the Mayor, or in his absence, before two of the Aldermen.

It was further declared by the charter, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses should have another officer, the COMMON CLERK of the Borough, "a good and honest person," who was to hold his office for life, unless for "ill-behaviour, or any other reasonable cause," removed by the Common Council; and who, upon his appointment, was to take an oath before the Mayor, or two of the Aldermen, justly and faithfully to discharge the functions of his station. The Town Clerk was to be appointed by the King, on the petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses.

The Common Clerk was empowered "to have, nominate, and make, any sufficient honest and discreet person" to be his Deputy Clerk for the time being.

The Corporation thus constituted, was by the charter rendered capable in law, to possess "manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, possessions, rights, privileges, liberties, franchises, jurisdictions, and hereditaments, of what nature, kind, or quality soever, to them and their successors in fee, perpetuity, term of life or years;" they were also enabled to dispose of the possessions thus technically described, and over which they were invested with the government, and to carry on any legal processes relative to such property in the same manner and form as the other subjects of the crown.

The AUTHORITY OF THE CORPORATION in the borough, was, in the charter, clearly defined, and was very extensive. When assembled according to the summons of the Mayor, they were invested with full power to make "such reasonable laws, orders, statutes, and ordinances, in writing for the good rule and government of the borough," and of all its inhabitants, "as shall, according to their sound discretion, seem reasonable and meet." They were also capacitated to declare in what manner the inhabitants of the borough were to conduct themselves in their several occupations for the good of the borough; and they were also empowered to adopt those measures in the time of war, of famine, of pestilence, or of any other danger, which the circumstances of the case might demand. They had also the power to propose new laws relative to the manufacture, the dying, or the sale of woollen cloth, but under this restriction,—in all such cases they were commanded to summon "forty of the more honest and sufficient cloth workers, inhabitants of the borough," who, with the Council, were to be called the COMMON ASSEMBLY; to them the Corporation were to submit the proposed statutes, which, if approved by the majority, were to become the standing and effective laws of the borough, obligatory, with the pains and penalties they contained, upon "all the cloth workers, artificers, and merchants."

In order to enforce these laws, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants, were empowered, with the consent of the Common Assembly, to impose such fines upon the property, or imprisonment of the person, of an offender, as they might deem requisite and reasonable. And they were intrusted with the same power

respecting their laws for the internal regulation of the borough, its markets and fairs, and the conduct of the different officers and servants they might be under the necessity of employing. These fines for offences against the municipal laws were to be collected by the Corporation and applied to the use of the body, "provided that such laws, statutes, ordinances, imprisonments, fines, and amerciaments, be not repugnant nor contrary to the laws, statutes, customs, or rights of the realm.

The charter also enacted that the Mayor, the Aldermen, the Recorder, and the Deputy Recorder, should be JUSTICES OF THE PEACE; and that the Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, and Aldermen of the borough, or any three or more of them, (of which the Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, or one of the two senior Aldermen was required to be one) should be intitled, in this capacity, upon the oaths of "good and legal men" of the borough, to enquire into all extortions, misprisions, trespasses, felonies, &c. committed within the borough, and to determine all such cases in the most ample manner. Arrangements were also made in the charter for the holding of QUARTER SESSIONS, and for the transmission of traitors, murderers, felons, &c. to the castle of York, upon the warrant of two or more of the justices of the borough, of whom the Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, or one of the two senior Aldermen, was to be one. To facilitate the transaction of business with reference to these subjects, it was made lawful for the Mayor to issue precepts for the summoning and returning of juries of the inhabitants; and if the men so impannelled did not appear, the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council were to impose upon them reasonable fines. The Mayor was also impowered to subpœna witnesses under the penalty of forty pounds or less. The officers of the Corporation were made amenable to its laws, upon the pain of punishment, which it had the power to inflict.

TWO SERGEANTS AT THE MACE were to be chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen to serve in the borough for proclamations, arrests, and execution of processes. These Sergeants, at their appointment, were to take oath before the Mayor, "well and faithfully" to perform the duties of their office, and privilege was given to them to carry one or two maces of gold or silver adorned with the royal arms.

The Mayor and Aldermen were also intitled to elect a CORONER for the borough, who was either to be one of the Assis-

tants or of the most responsible of the inhabitants—and also a CLERK OF THE MARKET within the liberties of the borough. Both these officers were, at their appointment, to take oath before the Mayor, faithfully to discharge their duties, and no other persons were to be allowed to intermeddle with their functions within the liberties of the borough.

CONSTABLES were also to be appointed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants, who might remove or appoint such officers according to their discretion.

A PRISON was enjoined by the charter to be held for the reception of offenders within the borough, and its custody and rule were intrusted to the Mayor and his deputy.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, were granted all "the fines, forfeitures, issues, and amerciaments," imposed before the borough justices of the peace and in the borough courts, and all such fines, &c. they were impowered to levy by attachment of the goods, or persons, and by the distress of goods of offenders.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, were committed the inspection, correction, and enforcement of the assize of wine, bread, ale, and other kinds of victuals sold within the borough; but the fines imposed upon offenders upon these matters, were not to be applied to the use of the Corporation, but to be laid out for the benefit of the poor. It was expressly declared by another provision of the charter, that all victuallers and fishmongers, and other persons coming to the borough with victuals for sale, should be under the government of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Some privileges were granted by this charter. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, were freed from serving as jurors in any court in the county of York, upon any cause arising without the limits of the borough—nor were the inhabitants of the borough compelled to apply to any external court for the decision of matters within the province of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants. The same parties were also exempted from being impannelled upon any trial or cause before any justice of assize out of the limits of the borough; unless the matter to be inquired into and decided, having occurred within its precincts, its inhabitants were of course supposed to be best acquainted with its intrinsic merits and peculiarities. It was further guaranteed to the inhabitants of the borough, that they should not be compelled to serve as bailiffs, or high constables, or in any other similar office in the county of York, unless they possessed lands or

tenements out of the borough, which rendered them liable for the same.

The charter further granted to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Leeds, that a COMMON MARKET should be held on Tuesday in every week throughout the year, all the emoluments of which arising from free customs, tolls, stallage, fines, &c. should be held by the parties above-named without any account to the king.

The charter concluded by providing for the mode of ELECTIONS in the corporation, and for its support and dignity. With respect to the mode of election, it was determined, that in all such elections and in all laws and ordinances made by the Mayor and the rest of the Common Council or Common Assembly, when the number of votes on both parts be equal, that side to which the Mayor should give his voice should prevail. And it was also provided that in passing such laws and making such elections, it should be essential, that the Common Meeting should consist of the Mayor and four Aldermen of the borough, with as many more Aldermen and Assistants as should make up the number of nineteen persons at the least.

To support THE DIGNITY OF THE CORPORATION, power was granted to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants, to "impose, tax, and assess," upon the inhabitants of the borough, such sums of money as might be requisite for the purpose; and to levy upon the goods of those burgesses who might refuse to pay, the amount of the contribution determined upon. And for the same purpose, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, were confirmed in the possession of all property and profits, from whatever source derived, which the Burgesses had at any time enjoyed, even though such property and profits might have been previously either abused or lost.

It is trusted that this arrangement and analysis of the Charter of King Charles II. to the borough of Leeds, will neither be uninteresting nor useless to the reader; it has ever since formed the basis of municipal legislation and police; and its provisions, with some few exceptions, which will be pointed out in their proper place, have continued in force to the present day. Upon the influence and effects of that form of municipal government, which has existed in Leeds, without interruption, since this charter was conferred, some observations will be found at the close of this narrative of the events which have affected its local

interests. "The abuses and deceits within the town and parish which were renewed and daily more and more increased, to the great harm and subversion of commerce and manufacture,"* must in a great measure have been prevented; an arranged system and order of effectual police must have proved an essential benefit to the town and to its vicinity; and by inspiring the inhabitants with a higher respect for the place of their residence, thus elevated to a degree of importance possessed by none of its manufacturing neighbours, the bestowment of this charter must have cherished their patriotic regard for its particular and general interests, and stimulated both their public spirit, and their commercial industry and enterprise.

The inhabitants of Leeds were not long allowed to manage their municipal affairs under these new institutions, without interruption. In the reign of James II. there was great dabbling among charters, to extend the influence and facilitate the designs
Jan. 1, 1684. of the court. Another charter was then given to this town, and Gervase Nevile, Esq. was the first Mayor under the new constitution. The innovation however was soon abrogated; five years only had elapsed, when, upon the accession of William and Mary, the old charter was restored, and the affairs of the town have ever since been regulated by its laws.

Two curious particulars, relative to the Corporation of Leeds in the ensuing reign (that of Queen Anne) will be amusing to the reader. In the year 1710, the office of the recordership became vacant, and Mr. Wilson was elected to that honourable station by a very large majority of votes. He was not however permitted to enter upon his functions; for in these times of agitation, when all who were not prepared to go the full lengths of a particular party were slanderously assailed as the enemies of the royal government, it was necessary either to coincide with the views of the dominant set, or to fall under the ban of their displeasure. By the party in question, Mr. Wilson seems to have been regarded with suspicion and dislike; and William Nevile, Esq. the acting High Sheriff, in order to obtain his deposition, represented, in the name of the church, the magistrates of Leeds as infected with the principles of Whiggery. This was quite enough, the assent of the Queen to the election was recalled, and the appointment was conferred upon a tool of the court, altogether inadequate to the office.

* Preamble of the Charter.

Although the misrepresentation was soon discovered, the magistrates of Leeds determined to deliver themselves most completely from the imputation; and two years afterwards, the Mayor and his companions presented an address to the queen in the palace of Kensington. They were treated with great condescension and affability; the Duke of Leeds had informed his sovereign that the address came from a populous borough and a loyal corporation, both willing and able to lend effectual assistance to the crown in the case of any emergency. The polite queen curtsied to the persons and smiled upon the loyalty of her liege subjects, and there can be no doubt that Leeds was filled with gratitude and exultation.

It would further seem that the graciousness of the Queen was the cause which induced the inhabitants to bestow more than wonted honours upon her name. On no former occasion do we discover any very extraordinary effervesence of loyalty in Leeds; but on this occasion, Alderman William Milner was at the expense of a white marble statue of her majesty, which he presented to his fellow townsmen, and which was placed in front of the Moot Hall. The day when this statue was erected, was observed in the town as a festival and holyday; a splendid procession traversed the streets; and every demonstration of joy was exhibited by all grades of the people. It may here be observed that this statue, which, though stiff in drapery and unpleasing in style, has some claims to merit, now looks down upon the principal street in Leeds from an elevated station in front of the New Corn Exchange.

The above was not the only instance of the interference of the crown in the election of the officers of the Leeds Corporation. In 1753 the Corporation chose Mr. Barstow to be the Town Clerk, but the king annulled the appointment, and ordered Mr. Thomas Atkinson to have the place, then valued at two hundred pounds per annum.

The fines, which according to the Charter of Charles II. were to be paid by any Alderman refusing to serve the office of Mayor, have frequently been levied on the recusants. The most interesting circumstance of this nature which perhaps ever occurred, took place in the middle of the last century; when the Corporation brought an action against Mr. W. Denison, to recover the penalty on his refusal to serve his mayoralty. This refusal had been repeated no less than four times in four successive years, A.D. 1758.

viz. from 1754 to 1758. The cause was tried at York, before Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, who stated his astonishment that Mr. Denison should so pertinaciously refuse the highest honour which it was in the power of the Corporation to bestow. The defendant at length compromised the affair by engaging, through his brother as his deputy, to accept the office. The very next year Walter Wade, Esq. was fined for a similar refusal.

The funds of the Corporation of Leeds under the charter of Charles II. derived from these sources, have never been very large, nor has the corporate body, as such, ever been very opulent. Of this a remarkable proof was given in 1798. When the monied bodies, the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, came forward with their subscriptions in aid of the supplies demanded by the national defence against the malignant designs of France, the contribution of the Leeds Corporation, though most liberal when compared with the funds of the body, was far exceeded by the munificent gifts of private individuals in the neighbourhood. While the Earls of Harewood and Carlisle each subscribed four thousand pounds, while Sir R. B. Johnston gave one thousand pounds annually during the continuance of the war, while Mr. Smyth, of Heath, gave one thousand pounds, the Corporation of Leeds forwarded to the cashier of the Bank of England five hundred pounds, with an order for it to be entered in the books in the following manner, "The Corporation of Leeds having no property or income whatever, save the interest of one thousand eight hundred pounds arising from fees of admission and fines paid by those refusing to serve, five hundred pounds."

With reference to the charter of Charles II. we finally observe, that it clearly shews that from the time of the cessation of the civil war, and the ravages of the plague, to the Restoration, that is during the space of fifteen years, the population, the wealth, and the general prosperity of Leeds had been rapidly increasing. The preamble to this charter, given in the second year after the
A. D. 1661. Restoration, declares that the manufactures of the town and parish already contributed to the great augmentation of the revenue, "by customs and payments due and made by reason thereof"—and it further states, that the "same town and parish are much more populous and fuller of inhabitants than in times by past." It appears that the commercial inhabitants of Leeds, at this period, were distinguished by steady sobriety, uniform economy, and persevering diligence. Although in the absence of

extensive speculation and daring enterprise, large fortunes were never made with the strange rapidity which modern times occasionally witness, yet ample opulence was acquired by many who pursued with undeviating step and indefatigable industry, the beaten path of regular trade. By these individuals extensive estates were occasionally purchased for the settlement of their posterity, numerous houses were built which combined some degree of elegance with substantial comfort, and the germ was laid of that unrivalled greatness and importance to which Leeds, as the emporium of Yorkshire, has ultimately expanded.*

A collateral proof of the progressive consequence of Leeds is afforded by the fact, that in the fifth year of William and Mary, it was selected to give the title of Duke to one of the most distinguished statesmen of the age, by whose descendants the same honour is still sustained. This circumstance seems to have afforded no little gratification to Thoresby. In the first page of his Ducatus, he speaks with evident pride of "his Grace, the High Puissant and most Noble Prince, Thomas Osborne, Duke of Leeds, Marquess of Caermarthen, Earl of Danby, Viscount Latimer, Baron Osborne of Kiveton, and Baronet, Lord President of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Lord Lieutenant of the East, West, and North Ridings in the County of York," &c. &c. &c. In giving to the Duke of Leeds a title derived from a trading town, it must be confessed that there was something appropriate. For his Grace's family originated from among the people. Its founder, Edward Osborne, in the middle of the sixteenth century, was the apprentice of William Hewett, an opulent tradesman, who lived upon London Bridge, then occupied by a number of houses and presenting a continued street. The only daughter of Mr. Hewett, on one occasion, fell into the river, and would have been drowned but for the gallantry of young Osborne, who plunged into the stream at the hazard of his life, and succeeded in saving his young mistress from destruction. He received the fair lady's hand as the reward of his courage; his father-in-law, who became Sir William Hewett and Lord Mayor of London, richly endowed him with wealth; he was created a knight, and elevated to the highest civic honours in the reign of Elizabeth; and his son, Sir Edward Osborne of Kiveton,

* Bishop Parker, in his account of Farnely Wood Plot, testifies to the affluence of Leeds at that period, calling it "oppidum lanificio opulentum"—"rich in woollen manufactures." De Reb. Sui Temp. 68.

A. D. 1620. was made a baronet by Charles I. and was afterwards appointed Vice President of the Council for the north of England. The son of this Sir Edward was High Sheriff of Yorkshire the
A. D. 1662. second year after the Restoration, his patriotic conduct as Earl Danby, (so created 1674,) in taking arms at York for William and Mary, we have already related; he obtained the Dukedom of Leeds in 1694; and died full of honours at the advanced age of eighty-one, in the year 1712. The present Duke is the sixth in order from the creation of the title.

It may here be remarked, that though Leeds was formerly connected with some of the principal families of the West Riding, some of whom made it the place of their residence, others sustained offices in its corporation, and others interested themselves in the transaction of its affairs, it has long been totally abandoned by the aristocracy. Three distinguished noble families reside within a few miles of it, and one of them is possessed of considerable property in the borough; but the residents at Harewood, at Temple Newsam, and at Methley, are seldom to be seen in its streets, the independence of manufacturing wealth being inconsistent with both the taste and the pride of dignity and rank.

We subjoin in this place a list of the Mayors of Leeds from the time when the charter of Charles I. was granted.

I. UNDER THE FIRST CHARTER.

1626 Sir John Savile, but the office was executed by Mr. Harrison.
1627 Samuel Casson, Esq.
1628 Robert Benson, Esq.
1629 Richard Sykes, Esq.
1630 Thos. Metcalf, Esq.
1631 Joseph Killary, Esq.
1632 Benj. Wade, Esq.
1633 Francis Jackson, Esq.
1634 John Harrison, Esq. 2nd.
1635 Samuel Casson, Esq. 2nd.
1636 Richard Sykes, Esq. 2nd.
1637 Thomas Metcalf, Esq. 2nd.
1638 John Hodgson, Esq.
1639 Joseph Killary, Esq. 2nd.
1640 Francis Jackson, Esq. 2nd.
1641 John Hodgshun, Esq. 2nd.
1642 Ralph Croft, Esq.
1643 John Dawson, Esq.
1644 Francis Allanson, Esq.
1645 John Thoresby, Esq.
1649 Robert Brooke, Esq.
1650 James Moxon, Esq.
1651 William Marshall, Esq.
1652 Richard Milner, Esq.
1653 John Thwaits, Esq.
1654 Martin Isles, Esq.
1655 Henry Roundhil, Esq.
1656 Marmaduke Hicke, Esq.
1657 Francis Allanson, Esq. 2nd.
1658 William Fenton, Esq.
1659 William Fenton, Esq. 2nd.
1660 Paul Thoresby, Esq. Mayor at the Restoration.

II. UNDER THE SECOND CHARTER.

1661 Thomas Danby, Esq. for whom Edward Atkinson, Esq. officiated.
1662 John Dawson, Esq. 2nd.
1663 Benjamin Wade, Esq. 2nd.
1664 Henry Skelton, Esq.
1665 Dan. Foxcroft, Esq.
1666 Marm. Hicke, Esq. 2nd.
1667 Edward Atkinson, Esq. 2nd.
1668 Christopher Watkinson, Esq.
1669 Godfrey Lawson, Esq.
1670 Richard Armytage, Esq.
1671 Thos. Dixon, Esq.
1672 Will. Hutchinson, Esq.
1673 Will. Busfield, Esq.
1674 Samuel Sykes, Esq.
1675 Martin Headley, Esq.
1676 Anthony Wade, Esq.
1677 John Killingbeck, Esq.
1678 William Pickering, Esq.
1679 Joseph Bawmer, Esq.
1680 Henry Skelton, Esq.
1681 Marm. Hicke, Esq. 3rd.
1682 Thomas Potter, Esq.
1683 William Rooke, Esq.

III. UNDER THE THIRD CHARTER OF JAMES II.

1684 Gervase Nevile, Esq.
1685 Joshua Ibbetson, Esq.
1686 William Sawer, Esq.
1687 Henry Stanhope, Esq.
1688 Thos. Kitchingman, Esq.

IV. THE FORMER CHARTER RESTORED.

1689 William Massey, Esq.
1690 Michael Idle, Esq.
1691 John Preston, Esq.
1692 William Calverley, Esq.
1693 Thos. Dixon, Esq. 2nd.
1694 Marm. Hicke, Esq. 4th.
1695 Henry Iveson, Esq.
1696 John Dodgson, Esq.
1697 William Milner, Esq.
1698 Caleb Askwith, Esq.
1699 John Rontree, Esq.
1700 Thos. Lasenby, Esq.
1701 John Gibson, Esq.
1702 James Kitchingman, Esq.
1703 Samuel Hey, Esq.
1704 Edmund Barker, Esq.
1705 Thos. Kitchingman, Esq. 2nd.
1706 Jer. Barstow, Esq.
1707 Rowland Mitchell, Esq.
1708 Rowland Mitchell, Esq. 2nd.
1709 Henry Iveson Esq. 2nd.
1710 John Dodgshon, Esq.
1711 John Atkinson, Esq.
1712 William Cookson, Esq.
1713 William Rooke, Esq.
1714 Solomon Pollard, Esq.
1715 Croft Preston, Esq.
1716 Edward Ibbetson, Esq.
1717 Thomas Pease, Esq.
1718 Benjamin Wade, Esq.
1719 Scudamore Lasenby, Esq.
1720 Thomas Brearey, Esq.
1721 Robert Denison, Esq.
1722 James Kitchingman, Esq. 2nd.
1723 Edmund Barker, Esq.
1724 Jer. Barstow, Esq. 2nd.
1725 William Cookson, Esq. 2nd.
1726 Thomas Sawer, Esq.
1727 Simeon Pollard, Esq. 2nd.
1728 Edward Iveson, Esq.
1729 John Blayds, Esq.
1730 George Doer, Esq.
1731 Edward Kenion, Esq.
1732 John Douglas, Esq.
1733 William Fenton, Esq.
1734 Henry Scott, Esq.
1735 Thomas Micklethwait, Esq.
1736 John Brook, Esq.
1737 Robert Denison, Esq. 2nd.
1738 William Cookson, Esq. 3rd.
1739 Henry Atkinson, Esq.
1740 Thomas Sawer, Esq. 2nd.

1741 John Snowden, Esq.
1742 John Watts, Esq.
1743 Robert Smithson, Esq.
1744 Richard Horncastle, Esq.
1745 Timothy Smith, Esq.
1746 Edward Kenion, Esq. 2nd.
1747 William Fenton, Esq. 2nd.
1748 Henry Scott, Esq. 2nd.
1749 Edward Gray, Esq.
1750 John Firth, Esq.
1751 Henry Hall, Esq.
1752 Thomas Micklethwait, Esq.
1753 Sir Henry Ibbetson, Bart.
1754 Mr. W. Denison.
1755 Mr. W. Denison.
1756 Thomas Denison, Esq.
1757 Mr. William Denison.
1758 Mr. William Denison.
1759 Edmund Lodge, Esq.
1760 Thomas Medhurst, Esq.
1761 John Blayds, Esq.
1762 William Wilson, Esq.
1763 Samuel Harper, Esq.
1764 Samuel Davenport, Esq.
1765 Joshua Dixon, Esq.
1766 James Kenion, Esq.
1767 Luke Sechwell, Esq.
1768 Edward Gray, Esq. 2nd.
1769 William Hutchinson, Esq.
1770 William Dawson, Esq.
1771 Edmund Lodge, Esq. 2nd.
1772 John Calverley, Esq.
1773 Thomas Medhurst, Esq. 2nd.
1774 John Blayds, Esq. 2nd.
1775 John Beckett, Esq.
1776 John Wormald, Esq,
1777 Joseph Fountaine, Esq.
1778 Gamaliel Lloyd, Esq.
1779 John Micklethwait, Esq.
1780 Thomas Rea Cole, Esq.
1781 William Smithson, Esq.
1782 Arthur Ikin, Esq.
1783 William Cookson, Esq.
1784 Jer. Dixon, Esq.
1785 John Calverley, Esq.
1786 John Markland, Esq.
1787 William Hey, Esq. F.R.S.
1788 Edward Sanderson, Esq.
1789 Edward Markland, Esq.
1790 John Plowes, Esq.
1791 Wade Browne, Esq.
1792 Rd. Ramsden Bramley, Esq.
1793 Alexander Turner, Esq.
1794 John Blayds, Esq. 3rd.
1795 Whittel York, Esq.
1796 Henry Hall, Esq.
1797 John Beckett, Esq. 2nd.
1798 John Calverley, Esq. 2nd.
1799 Benj. Gott, Esq.
1800 John Brooke, Esq.
1801 William Cookson, Esq. 2nd.
1802 William Hey, Esq. F.R.S. 2nd.
1803 Thomas Ikin, Esq.
1804 Wade Browne, Esq. 2nd.
1805 John Wilson, Esq.
1806 R. R. Bramley, Esq. 2nd.
1807 Edward Markland, Esq. 2nd.
1808 Thomas Tennant, Esq.
1809 Richard Pullan, Esq.
1810 Alexander Turner, Esq.
1811 Charles Brown, Esq.
1812 Henry Hall, Esq. 2nd.
1813 William Greenwood, Esq.
1814 John Brooke, Esq. 2nd.
1815 Whittel York, Esq. 2nd.
1816 William Prest, Esq.
1817 John Hill, Esq.
1818 George Banks, Esq.
1819 Christopher Beckett, Esq.
1820 William Hey, Esq.
1821 Lepton Dobson, Esq.
1822 Benjamin Sadler, Esq.
1823 Thomas Tennant, Esq. 2nd.
1824 Charles Brown, Esq.
1825 Henry Hall, Esq. 3rd.
1826 Thomas Beckett, Esq.
1827 Thomas Blayds, Esq.
1828 Ralph Markland, Esq.
1829 Christopher Beckett, Esq.
1830 Thomas Thorp, Esq.
1831 William Hey, Esq. 2nd.
1832 Thomas Tennant, Esq. 3rd.

LIST OF THE RECORDERS OF LEEDS.

1626 John Clayton, Esq.
1660 Francis Whyte, Esq.
1692 Jasper Blythman, Esq.
1707 Richard Thornton, Esq.
1709 John Walker, Esq.
1729 Richard Wilson, Esq.
1762 Richard Wilson, Esq.
1776 Samuel Buck, Esq.
1806 John Hardy, Esq.

LIST OF THE TOWN CLERKS OF LEEDS.

1660 Francis Bellhouse.
1661 George Bannister.
Edward Brogden.
Castilion Morris.
Thomas Leigh.
Henry Adams.
1725-6 John Lazenby.
1753 Thomas Atkinson.
1765 Thomas Barstow, Jun.
1792 Lucas Nicholson.
1812 James Nicholson.

LIST OF THE CORPORATION OF LEEDS. 1833.

Thomas Tennant, Esq. Mayor.
John Hardy, Esq. Recorder.
Charles Milner, Esq. Deputy Recorder.

ALDERMEN.

Benj. Gott, Esq.
John Brook, Esq.
Charles Brown, Esq.
Henry Hall, Esq.
George Banks, Esq.
Christopher Beckett, Esq.
William Hey, Esq.
Benjamin Sadler, Esq.
Thomas Beckett, Esq.
Thomas Blayds, Esq.
Ralph Markland, Esq.
Thomas Thorp, Esq. M.D.

ASSISTANTS.

Jonathan Wilks, Esq.
John Gott, Esq.
Joseph Ingham, Esq.
J. G. Uppleby, Esq.
Fountaine Browne, Esq.
Thomas Chorley, Esq.
John Hives, Esq.
Richard Bramley, Esq.
M. T. Sadler, Esq.
J. H. Ridsdale, Esq.
Griffith Wright, Esq.
William Wilks, Esq.
J. M. Tennant, Esq.
Wm. Hey, Jun. Esq.
John Wilkinson, Esq.
Charles Brown, Jun. Esq.
William Perfect, Esq.
William Waite, Esq.
J. R. Atkinson, Esq.
Benjamin Holroyd, Esq.
Thomas Teale, Esq.
S. G. Fenton, Esq.
Wm. Osburn, Jun. Esq.
John Upton, Esq.

James Nicholson, Esq. Town Clerk.
Robert Barr, Esq. Deputy Town Clerk and Coroner.

SECTION IV. LEEDS CONTINUED.

THE first half of the eighteenth century was distinguished by two fatal riots in Leeds. On account of the exportation of corn, on which there appears to have been a bounty, the prices of pro-
A. D. 1735. visions greatly advanced, the indignation of the populace was roused, and tumults broke out in various parts of the kingdom. The conduct of the rioters in Leeds was so violent that the king's troops were obliged to fire upon the multitude, and eight or nine of the people were killed. While this first riot is thus hastily dismissed, the second merits a more extended description.

The state of the roads in Yorkshire had long been most deplorable; they consisted of narrow lanes, fitted only for the transit of pack horses; carriages could only move in a single row, while an elevated causeway, covered with flags or boulder stones, afforded comparative convenience to pedestrians. It is amusing in these days of rapid and easy travelling, to peruse such a work as Thoresby's Diary, in which the writer describes the dangers incurred by the waters, which at particular seasons rendered the roads almost impassable, and expresses his gratitude for safe arrival in towns but at a little distance from his own place of abode. The first law for making Turnpikes was enacted in 1662; but it was not until long afterwards that local acts were rendered available to facilitate the communication between the towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire. About the middle of the last century, several acts were passed for the improvement of the roads, and Turnpikes were established to defray the expense of the alteration. The exaction of tolls excited an immense ferment
A. D. 1753. among the people, and they determined to destroy the turnpike gates, and to demolish the houses of the collectors. In an attempt upon the gate and house at Harewood Bridge, they were defeated by Mr. Lascelles and some of his tenantry, and several of them were severely wounded. In other places they were more successful; they demolished the gate which had been erected between

Bradford and Leeds; they destroyed the bar at Halton Dial, and repeated the same act of violence at Beeston. Three of the rioters were apprehended at the latter place, and were conveyed before the magistrates of the borough, then assembled at the King's Arms Inn, in Briggate. The mob having on the morning of the same day liberated a carter who had been seized by the soldiery for refusing to pay toll at Beeston, assembled before the inn with the determination of rescuing the prisoners, and they soon broke the windows and shutters of the house with stones which they procured from the pavement of the street. The magistrates finding the civil power totally inadequate to preserve the peace of the town, ordered out a troop of dragoons then stationed in Leeds; the mob, however, so far from being intimidated, furiously assaulted the soldiers as well as the constables. Orders having been issued that each shop should be closed, and each family secured as far as possible from injury, the troops were commanded to fire first with powder, and this producing no effect, with ball. The people then fled in all directions, but a considerable number were either killed or mortally wounded. It happened in this as in many other similar instances, that a majority of the sufferers had taken no active part in the riot, for the occurrence unfortunately happening on the Saturday evening, many of the slain were persons who were either attracted by mere curiosity to view the proceedings of the mob, or were on their way to the market to purchase the usual provisions for the ensuing week. From a list which has since been published, it appears that thirty seven persons were killed and wounded, and that many of them were women and some of them were total strangers in the town. Tranquillity was not immediately restored, and it was found necessary to keep a guard upon the houses of the mayor and recorder for several weeks after the deplorable event. No subsequent explosion of popular violence was exhibited, and the misguided populace soon perceived that turnpike roads were an incalculable advantage, instead of an oppressive grievance.

The construction of turnpike roads speedily effected a general change in the transmission of goods and the mode of travelling. Goods were previously almost universally conveyed in hampers, halts, or sacks, on packhorses, which frequently proceeded one after the other in succession to a considerable number. But carts now came into general use, although the packhorses were long retained by the clothiers in bringing their manufactures to the

market. The waggons of regular carriers from town to town were introduced about 1750. Post chaises, which were for some time regarded as vehicles of luxury appropriated exclusively to the use of the effeminate, the valetudinarian, and the affluent, began to be used about four years later. Prior to this period there had been no post coaches from Leeds. The first coach established in Yorkshire, proceeded from the Black Swan, in Coney-street, York, to the Black Swan, in Holbourn, in London: it ran three times a week, and performed the journey in four days, "if God permitted." In 1764 we meet with the following advertisement: "Safe and expeditious travelling with Machines on steel springs in 4 days to London, from the Old Kings Arms, in Leeds, every Monday and Wednesday." Miserable work indeed travelling must have been in such clumsy vehicles, on such broken roads, with the chance of being killed by the overturning of the *Machine*, and of being robbed, and perhaps murdered, by the audacious highwaymen of the period. Immense improvement, however, speedily took place, for only five years after the advertisement we have just presented to the reader, we find that there were two coaches which carried passengers from Leeds to London in two days and a half for one pound eleven shillings and sixpence inside, and one pound one shilling outside. The speed of travelling was rapidly accelerated, and in 1776 a new post coach was advertised to go to London in thirty nine hours from the Old Kings Arms.* To pursue this subject further is unne-

* The following is a spirited description of the difficulty of travelling and conveying goods in this part of the country even to a late period in the last century. "The roads were sloughs almost impassable by single carts, surmounted at the height of several feet by narrow worn tracks, where travellers who encountered each other, sometimes tried to wear out each other's patience, rather than either would risk a deviation. Carriage of raw wool and manufactured goods was performed on the backs of single horses at a disadvantage of nearly two hundred to one compared to carriage by water. At the same time, and long after, the situation of a merchant was toilsome and perilous. In winter, during which season the employment of the working manufacturer was intermitted, the distant markets never ceased to be frequented. On horseback, before day break and long after night fall, these hardy sons of trade pursued their object with the spirit and intrepidity of a fox chase, and the boldest of their country neighbours had no reason to despise their horsemanship or their courage. Sloughs, darkness, and broken causeways, certainly presented a field of action no less perilous than hedges and five barred gates, while the diligent pursuit of their lawful callings certainly afforded a more justifiable cause for incurring such risks than the idle pursuit of a contemptible animal." —Loid. and Elmete, 81.

cessary. It may be remarked, however, that within the last twenty years the security as well as the comfort and rapidity of travelling have been materially increased. Dr. Whitaker, who hated innovation, whether it referred to turnpike roads or to any other subject or system whatever, stated upon this subject, "under the old state of roads and manners it was impossible that more than one death could happen at once; what by any possibility could take place analagous to a race between two stage coaches, in which the lives of thirty or forty distressed and helpless individuals are at the mercy of two intoxicated brutes? Under such circumstances, a journey from town to town resembled a voyage from Dublin to Holyhead, short indeed, but extremely perilous." This description is no longer applicable. By the care and attention of the proprietors of coaches, by the state of the law upon the subject, by numerous examples which have been made, by the publication, in the periodical press, of every accident that occurs, a great revolution has been effected; the manners, the character, and the system of coachmen has been immensely improved; and though disastrous events will always occur from unfortunate circumstances in travelling as in every thing else, the dangers of the road have been so mitigated or removed that little apprehension need be entertained by the traveller. The system of travelling by stage coaches has superseded in a great measure every other in this part of the country, it has been introduced into its most secluded corners and its remotest districts, and it is rather amusing to see the numerous apologies for coaches which are now used on the Leeds market days to convey the trades people of the distant villages to the town. In the course of a few years, coaches may be superseded by locomotive engines on rail-roads, and the next generation may smile at the clumsy dilatoriness of our method of travelling, just as we ridicule the tediousness and apprehensions which distinguished the journeys of our forefathers.

The attention of the inhabitants of Leeds was directed at an early period to the supply of their families with water, by pipes conveyed from reservoirs through the streets. So early as 1694, works were constructed for this purpose under the direction of an engineer of the name of Sorocold, who from his having been employed at London, Bristol, and Norwich, in a similar manner, must have risen to considerable eminence in his profession. A

large reservoir was prepared at that time at Lidgates to supply the pipes, and Kirkgate was the street in which those pipes were first laid. But these works became inadequate to the wants of an increasing population, and in 1754 new premises were taken for the site of the requisite works. These premises were originally called Pit-Fall Mill, a place which was occupied as a fulling mill in the reign of Charles II. and was granted to Edward and William Ferrers by the same charter which established the foundation of the present Leeds Soke. The premises were taken on lease for ninety nine years from Alice Elswick, and there the necessary preparations were made for the supply of the town. When thirty six years had elapsed, it was found necessary to apply for an act of parliament to ameliorate the whole system, and to provide such other accommodations as the wants of the public demanded. In the thirtieth year of the reign of George III. an act was accordingly obtained. It was entitled, "An Act for better supplying the town and neighbourhood of Leeds in the county of York with water, and for more effectually lighting and cleansing the streets and other places within the said town and neighbourhood, and removing and preventing nuisances, annoyances, encroachments, and obstructions therein." Twenty one persons were nominated, in the first instance, to act as commissioners to carry the provisions of the act into execution,* and afterwards thirteen commissioners were to be appointed to superintend the works, and to regulate all the affairs connected with this department of municipal convenience. These commissioners were commanded to be chosen on the first Thursday in every January, and they were empowered to elect from their own body a treasurer, to appoint collectors and other subordinate officers, to construct the requisite apparatus for the easy and effectual conveyance of the water, to make the pecuniary arrangements which were required by the nature of the case, and to take other steps particularly specified, but under certain restrictions referring to certain private and vested property and corporation rights. In the year after the act was obtained, the former premises were arranged

* These commissioners were William Cookson, John Beckett, and William Smithson, Esqrs. the Rev. William Sheepshanks, the Rev. William Wood, George Bischoff, William Faber, Richard Ramsden Bramley, John Plowes, John Marshall, John Hebblethwaite, Charles Clapham, Joseph Wood, Josiah Oates, Thomas Hill, George Beaumont, Samuel Fenton, Thomas Charlesworth, James Donaldson, Josiah Oates, and Thomas Wright.

upon a new plan, and the present works were erected. The original act of 1790 was ratified, modified, and improved by another in 1809. The water is now forced from the river by an engine of considerable power, it is received by three large reservoirs at the upper part of the town, and from thence it is distributed to the inhabitants. It must here be observed that the present efficiency of the works is in a great measure to be ascribed to Mr. George Webster, whose indefatigable exertions sixteen years ago intitled him to the appellation of a benefactor to the town. There are now few establishments in the kingdom of a similar description, in a state of better superintendence and application, or more conducive to public advantage and convenience, than the Leeds Water Works.

At the middle of the last century the inhabitants of this town, during the long nights of winter, had no regular system of publicly lighting their streets, and were consequently exposed to the outrages of ruffians and the exactions of plunderers. In 1755, however, an act was obtained to obviate the inconvenience. The Preamble of this act as it illustrates the condition of the town at that period is worthy of the attention of the reader. It is expressed in the following terms; "Whereas the town of Leeds, in the county of York, is a place of great trade and large extent, consisting of many streets, narrow lanes and alleys, inhabited by great numbers of tradesmen, manufacturers, artificers, and others, who, in the prosecution of and carrying on their respective trades and manufactures, are obliged to pass and repass through the same as well in the night as in the day time: and whereas several burglaries, robberies, and other outrages and disorders have lately been committed, and many more attempted within the said town, &c. and the enlightening the said streets and lanes, and regulating the pavements thereof would be of great advantage, and tend not only to the security and preservation of the person and properties of the inhabitants of the said town, but to the benefit and convenience of strangers and persons resorting to the several markets within the said town, &c." To the provisions of this act we have no occasion to refer; it was soon ratified by another of a more definite character and a more extensive operation. It is certainly extraordinary that no project for lighting the town had been formed at an earlier period. The population of Leeds, however, though it had gradually, had by no means

A. D. 1775. rapidly, increased from the commencement of the century; exactly twenty years after this period it only amounted to very little more than seventeen thousand; and it is certain that but little public spirit prevailed among the people, who were so absorbed in their individual concerns, that they devoted but little time to their general prosperity and convenience.

The first streets which were lighted under this act were Cross Parish and New-Street—so called because it was the first place in Leeds upon which the word street was imposed. When the act for the water-works in 1790 was obtained, it extended the provisions of the former act for lighting, &c. to those parts of the town which had hitherto remained without the privilege of nocturnal lights, and to the distance of a thousand yards from the bars. The superintendence of the whole system of lighting, was vested in the commissioners of the water-works. By oil lamps by no means of the best construction, the town continued to be lighted for twenty-eight years, when a Gas Company was incorporated under the sanction of an act of Parliament; between twenty and thirty thousand pounds were expended in the erection of an extensive establishment in York-Street, and in other corresponding works; and the brilliant illumination of the new system soon entirely superseded the twinkling corruscations, "few and far between," which rendered "darkness visible" in the olden times. Leeds was first lighted with gas February 4th, 1819. In 1824 an Oil Gas Company was established, which in a short time obtained a capital of twenty thousand pounds; it was however by no means successful, and the whole speculation ultimately proved abortive.

The two acts of parliament we have just mentioned, provided for the removal of annoyances which had been permitted to accumulate during two centuries, and the health as well as the comfort of the inhabitants was consulted by regulations for the periodical cleansing of the streets. The second act prohibited a custom which prevailed in Leeds up to that late period, and which must certainly have imparted a very lively appearance to the streets, notwithstanding at the same time that it endangered the security of the passengers. It was the practice of the shopkeepers and tradesmen to have projecting signs, like those which are now generally used before inns, to indicate the nature of the commodities they sold; these waving demonstrations of traffic, with their gaudy gilding and painting, were commanded to be

removed from their pendent positions, and were for the future to be permanently fixed against the walls of the houses.

Before we proceed to the description of the alterations and improvements which have recently been effected in the town of Leeds, we shall briefly advert to some public buildings which were erected prior to the conclusion of the last century for the purposes of amusement. The Theatre was opened in 1771, in its exterior most unprepossessing, and in its situation most inconvenient. It is one most creditable characteristic of the manners and of the principles of the inhabitants of Leeds, that although every exertion has been made to ensure the permanent support and success of this establishment, and although the most splendid theatrical "stars" have been brought to emit their beams within its walls, it has never exhibited any thing like prosperity, and has occasionally been closed for considerable periods. The following excellent observations by the continuator of Thoresby are sufficiently important and impressive to be inserted in our text. After stating his pleasure in finding that for four years prior to the publication of his work, the theatre had been shut up, he says, "Let not this observation be censured as proceeding from a sour and cynical indifference to theatrical entertainments; on the contrary, I think them the most elegant and fascinating of all amusements, but only the more dangerous because they are elegant and fascinating. If every thing which tends to corrupt the principles, to debauch the heart, and above all to dishonour the Almighty, I should, in its connexion with the present subject, wish and pray that it might assume a shape the most repulsive and brutal possible. From the corruption of bear-gardens and boxing matches, the inhabitants of a town like Leeds are in little danger. But neither does the absence of that gross indecency which once disgraced the English stage afford any great cause for triumph; it would now empty the theatre and starve the actors; its immorality at present is just such as to seduce without alarming, to instil impure ideas without exciting a blush, and to extol as virtues what Christianity condemns as vices of the heart. But by far the most intolerable quality of the modern stage is its profaneness. To the incessant insults there offered to the name of the Supreme Being in wanton exclamations, no one who calls himself a christian ought to lend an ear. And for such enormities, not the endurance but the applause of an English audience

is demanded. If such things are to be countenanced because they are accompanied by circumstances elegant and fascinating, I am mistaken in supposing that to discourage immorality by absence is a duty, or that voluntarily to court temptation because the object is attractive, may be used with equal force as an apology for sins from which many of the more fleeting advocates of stage plays would shrink with horror."*

The Assembly Rooms, over the north side of the White Cloth Hall, were built 1775, but were not used for some time afterwards. In 1777 the Assembly Room, in Assembly Court was opened, Sir George Savile and Lady Effingham commencing the proceedings of the evening with a minuet, in the presence of two hundred and twenty of the neighbouring nobility and gentry. These meetings were subsequently transferred to the White Cloth Rooms.

June 9.

The Music Hall, in Albion-Street, was erected in 1792. The ground floor was for some years occupied as a hall for woollen manufactures, especially for blankets, and afforded accommodation to those clothiers who were excluded from the Cloth Halls. It received, and for some time retained, the ignominious appellation of Tom Paine's Hall. It is now appropriated to other purposes. The Leeds Concerts have long been conducted with great spirit and considerable success; the hall however has frequently witnessed exhibitions of a far more impressive character than its musical assemblies; it has often formed the scene in which the claims of the noblest institutions of British Christianity and benevolence have been presented to the consideration and the ever ready liberality of the inhabitants of the town.

We have seen how by the Charter of Incorporation granted by Charles II. the Magistrates of Leeds were impowered to provide a common gaol, which was to be placed under the superintendence of the mayor. The prison was long a disgrace to the town. Placed on the south side of Kirkgate, it abutted so far into the street as to become an intolerable nuisance to the passengers, and its interior accommodations were so defective that its wretched inmates were deprived of the common comforts of light and air. In the year 1809 an act was obtained, which among other things ordained "that a Court-House, with suitable accommodations, for the more convenient holding of the Quarter Ses-

* Loidis et Elmete, 86, 87.

sions of the peace, and transacting the business of the borough, and also a prison for the convenient detention and security of felons and other prisoners, should be forthwith provided." It was further enacted, that to defray the expense incurred in the erection of the requisite buildings, a rate should be imposed upon such messuages and lands as were usually assessed for the poor, which was not to exceed in the whole one shilling and threepence in the pound, and of which no more than the third should be raised in any one year. A convenient plot of ground having been procured between Park-Row and Infirmary-Street, the foundation stone was laid on the 2nd of September, 1811, and the whole was completed in 1813. The taste of the architect, Mr. Taylor, is displayed in the front towards Park-Row, and his skill in the general arrangement of the interior. A portico of Corinthian columns forms the centre of the front, and the wings have pannels highly wrought in bas relief, containing the fleece the emblem of the town, and the fasces as the insignia of justice. On each side of the vestibule, are the Rotation Office and the Magistrates' Room, and both communicate with the large hall which affords accommodation for the assembly of a considerable number of persons. This hall is frequently used for public meetings of various descriptions, and for the transaction of those affairs belonging to the locality, which involve popular discussion and inquiry. Two galleries are provided in the hall, one for the Grand Jury, and the other for the ladies; the Grand Jury room which is over the vestibule, communicates with their box, while two other rooms afford accommodation to the Juries and the Counsel. The ground story presents an open arcade, a guard room, an engine room, and a gaoler's apartment which overlooks the prison court, in which there are thirteen cells. A room for militia stores, an armoury, &c. are accessible through a guard room at the west end of the building, at which there is likewise a distinct entrance for the public. The exterior yard is surrounded with a strong iron palisading. The great defect of this building is the awkward and irregular appearance of the south west side; but this defect, it is supposed, has been caused by the acute angle formed by Infirmary-Street with Park-Row, and may therefore be considered as the necessary consequence of the nature of the site.

When the Old Prison with its blackened brick front and side was pulled down, when the entrance to Kirkgate was thus restored to its original width, when Commercial-Street, one of the princi-

pal and one of the most commodious avenues into Briggate was elongated through Park-Row by the Philosophical Hall to the front of the Infirmary,* and Boar-lane, always incommodious and narrow, was relieved of a large proportion of the carriages and passengers by which it was formerly crowded, an improvement was effected of material advantage both to the appearance and convenience of the town.

The act which provided for the erection of the New Court House and Prison, was the origin of some of the most useful improvements effected in the streets and thoroughfares of Leeds. For the Commissioners † under this act were empowered to purchase buildings, projecting or encroaching upon the footpaths, or causing any obstructions in the markets or streets, and to destroy or remove them for the general benefit of the town. But at the same time it was provided, that no such purchases were to be made but by the consent of three-fourths of the inhabitants assembled in the vestry of the Parish Church after regular notice, and that no rate should be imposed in one year amounting to more than fivepence in the pound on the real annual valuations made for the poor rates. Nor was this all: the same Commissioners were empowered to take proper measures for removing nuisances of every description from the streets, for securing the cleanliness of the town, and for obviating the dangers which were constantly arising from the carelessness and neglect of the different mechanics, who were employed in repairing the pavements and in building or altering houses.

In the course of a few years, it was found that all the preceding acts of the legislature were insufficient and incomplete, and another act was obtained to supply these deficiencies. The object of this act, which received the royal assent May 12, 1815, was to "amend and enlarge the powers and provisions of the previous

* Part of the great expense of this alteration was defrayed by the grant of a thousand pounds out of the fund created by a bequest of Thomas Wade, for the repair of the high roads, made in 1630, to which we have already alluded, and shall have occasion to describe at length in the fifth book.

† The Commissioners under this act were the Justices of the Peace in the Borough for the time being, together with the Commissioners appointed by the previous act in 1790, i.e. the Commissioners of Water Works and Lamps. See Clause 2, of the act of 49 George III. 1809. By Clause 10 of the same act it was enacted that seven of these Commissioners were to constitute a Quorum.

act for erecting the Court House and Prison, to provide for the expense of the prosecution of felons in certain cases, and to establish a Police and nightly watch in the town, borough, and neighbourhood of Leeds." It is evident, therefore, that this act was of the highest importance, and that it demands the partilar attention of the reader, since it was virtually the institution of a new system of municipal police. After providing for the continuance of the Court House Rate, until the expenses incurred by the erection of that building were completely defrayed, the act empowered the Magistrates at the Quarter Sessions, to elect a Gaoler or Governor of the Prison with other subordinate officers, to allow the expenses of prosecutions in specified cases, and to offer proper rewards for the apprehension of offenders. It then arranged for the general police of the borough, by committing to the Justices of the Peace the prerogative of appointing a Chief Constable with an appropriate salary, and of electing a sufficient number of persons to be his deputies—by requiring them to select an adequate body of watchmen and patroles for the town and the suburbs within one mile of the bars—by enabling them to impose such rates as were necessary to defray the expense of the new system of police—and by authorizing them to choose such treasurers, collectors, and other officers, as the execution of the act might require.

Upon this act the present system of police has been founded, numerous and useful changes for the better have since been made in this department of municipal arrangement, and it may be confidently stated that at the present period, the police of this borough, without any pompous exhibition of authority, is as active, as efficient, and as well regulated as that of any other provincial town in the kingdom. Leeds is divided into ten districts in each of which there is a division constable to preserve the peace; these districts are the Upper Division, the Middle Division, the Mill-Hill Division, the South Division, Kirkgate Division, the East Division, the Upper North East Division, the Upper North West Division, and the Lower North West Division. In each of the out-townships, a Constable is chosen from among the respectable inhabitants to whom the department of executive police is intrusted. The Vagrant Office, established in 1818, for the suppression of mendicity and vagrancy, is an important appendage to the Police of Leeds, it has diminished the number of beggars in the streets, it

has placed the lodging houses, those receptacles of vice and filth, under some degree of regulation, and it has indubitably exerted a most beneficial influence in the prevention of crime. The management of this office is vested in a committe of twenty-four, and its officers are a Superintendant and two special Constables.

The opening of the Wellington Road afforded a new entrance to the town from the west, and soon became the great avenue for carriages and passengers from Bradford, Halifax, and Manchester. The immense manufactories at its western extremity, especially the Park Mills belonging to Messrs. Gott and sons, indicate to the traveller the commercial enterprise and opulence of the town. Wellington Bridge, over the Aire, at the western end of the road and furnishing commodious access to the populous clothing villages on the south of the river, is a beautiful structure consisting of an elliptical arch of one hundred feet span, designed and executed by Rennie at an expense of seven thousand pounds. The foundation stone of this bridge was laid by B. Gott, Esq. in 1818, and it was finished in the following year. The Monk Bridge, which was erected a few years afterwards upon the suspension principle, and which was intended to be the commencement of a new line of road to Halifax, has not yet produced any revenue to its projectors, nor has it involved any advantage to the public. A very different observation must however be made with reference to another bridge of far humbler pretensions and far meaner appearance further down the river. The whole district known under the general name of School Close was formerly a confused labyrinth of scattered buildings, through which the numerous passengers proceeding to Holbeck from the western parts of the town, threaded their way to an inconvenient and sometimes a dangerous ferry. A wide street however was opened from Mill Hill to the river, materially increasing the value of the property in the neighbourhood, while a foot bridge over the river, opened in 1829, formed the long wanted communication with the vast population on the southern side of the Aire.

The removal of that most deplorable deformity the Middle Row in Briggate was a memorable event in the history of Leeds, and the steps by which this great object was effected deserve particular description. By the observations of the Leeds Mercury

more particularly, the attention of the public was incessantly directed to this "consummation most devoutly to be wished."* In the summer of 1822 Mr. Lucy, an individual well known in the town, drew up a requisition to the Mayor for a meeting to be held upon the subject, which he entrusted to Mr. Frederic Rinder, then residing in Duncan Street. This original requisition, being given up by its writer, was transcribed and given to Mr. Baines, who immediately devoted to it all his influence. In his office in Briggate, it was shewn to Mr. Cawood and Mr. John Clapham, who appended their names, and Mr. Baines followed their example; it was circulated through the town, and soon received the signatures of the most influential and respectable inhabitants. The requisition itself we deem it desirable to preserve. "To the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Leeds. We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do request that you will call a meeting of the inhabitants of this town to take into consideration the propriety of adopting such measures as may be deemed most expedient for removing what has for ages been considered a great nuisance, the Middle Row of Buildings at the top of Briggate." Three hundred and seventy nine names were appended to the document. Lepton Dobson, Esq. who was then the Mayor, entered with alacrity into the views of the requisitors, and summoned a meeting of the inhabitants of the town to take place on the thirty first of July.† The spirit exhibited on this occasion inspired the most sanguine hope that every difficulty would be vanquished. The proposition of removal was adopted in an assembly of nearly fifteen hundred persons, with only seven dissentients. An application was made without delay to parliament for the necessary act, and although the first attempt was rendered unsuccessful by trivial circumstances, the act was ulti-

* Baines' History of Yorkshire, 1. 19.

† The following notice of this meeting in the Leeds Mercury of the preceding Saturday produced a considerable effect. "It is scarcely necessary to remind our readers that on Wednesday next, the 31st inst. at twelve o'clock at noon, the meeting will be held in the vestry of our parish Church to determine upon the propriety of removing the pile of buildings called the Middle Row, at the top of Briggate. Upon a subject involving, as this does, so much public advantage, we hope to find the most perfect unanimity. So great a good must indeed be purchased with some individual sacrifices, but we are fully persuaded that no consideration of a private nature will be suffered to stand in competition with an improvement which will rank the present inhabitants of Leeds amongst the class of public benefactors for ages to come."

mately obtained. The expense of this great undertaking was estimated at twelve thousand pounds; and it was agreed that this large sum should be raised from the inhabitants by five annual rates of five-pence in the pound, and one rate of two-pence in the pound. The expense of such undertakings almost always exceeds the estimate, and the removal of Middle Row furnished no exception to the general rule. Some of the owners and tenants of the condemned buildings retarded the progress of the business by their obstinacy, and increased its expense by their avarice. The cost of the whole, including the solicitor's bill, and deducting five hundred pounds paid for the old materials, amounted to a little more than fifteen thousand pounds. The first Middle Row rate was levied in 1825, and it was confidently anticipated that the whole debt would be cancelled in the present year 1833—that anticipation has been fulfilled as far as the Middle Row is concerned, but the expense of another improvement, the opening of the Free Market, being charged upon the same rate, it still continues to be exacted from the inhabitants; the whole debt, however, will be extinguished in a little more than two years.

When the Middle Row was removed, and a considerable number of the butchers shops were consequently destroyed, it became necessary to provide additional and adequate accommodation for the venders and purchasers of meat. A few preliminary particulars, relative to the trade in meat in Leeds, will not be unacceptable to the reader.

A custom formerly prevailed among the butchers in Leeds, altogether unparalleled in any other town in the kingdom. It was formerly the practice to kill the cattle only on Sunday and Monday, and to let the beef thus prepared for use supply not only the market on Tuesday, but also that on Saturday; the consequence was that an immense quantity of meat in warm weather was either completely spoiled, or when sold was unwholesome and unfit for public use, so that a larger quantity of unsaleable meat was produced in Leeds than in any other place in England. This evil was not remedied until the year 1807, when two public spirited tradesmen* broke in upon the monstrous custom, and the encouragement they immediately obtained by this very laudable proceeding, induced all the butchers after some time to follow their

* Messrs. Samuel and Frederick Rinder.

example. Fourteen years after this, however, it was found that a large quantity of cattle, in a disordered state, was brought systematically to Leeds, and most of it in a dressed state. It was also lamented that the sanctity of the Sabbath was often violated by the slaughter of cattle, and by the sale of meat on that day. The butchers in the town, with a promptitude and spirit which did them honour, assembled to terminate these evils by one effectual and decisive measure. They first declared their intention of bringing to justice every individual they should be able to detect in disposing of unwholesome meat, and then they unanimously resolved "neither to kill any cattle, nor to sell any meat on Sundays, such practices being contrary to both the laws of God and man," and to proceed according to law against any butcher found guilty of either of these offences. Nov. 28, 1821.

The project of the New Shambles was one of the most useful ever formed in the town. They consist of streets with commodious shops on each side, extending from Briggate into Vicar Lane, and affording ample accommodation to the trade. The purchase of the premises, thus usefully occupied, required a considerable sum of money, that part of them which formed the site of Old Square having cost the builders and proprietors six thousand pounds. Part of the property too belonged to the Pious Use; but the consent of the Corporation to the alteration was procured without much difficulty, because the removal of some of the slaughter houses, which this project involved,* was a public convenience which recommended itself to the immediate approbation of every one who bestowed upon it a moment's consideration. And added to this circumstance, the erection of the New Shambles so materially increased the value and the income of the Pious Use property, that the execution of the design rather conferred a favour than received one. In consequence of an oversight in not giving the necessary notice to the occupant of some premises at the Briggate extremity of the proposed shambles, the work was commenced at the opposite corner, and the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Frederick Rinder, to whose spirit and perseverance this work is principally to be ascribed, on the fifteenth of June, 1823. The undertaking was ultimately accomplished with considerable eclat, the speculation was highly successful, and the New

* A new arrangement relative to all the slaughterhouses and offal pans is much to be desired, and it is sincerely hoped that the magistrates of the town will at no distant period direct their attention to the removal of these unhealthy and disgusting nuisances.

Shambles deserve to be ranked among the most laudable and effective improvements in the town.*

The traders in meat in Leeds have now more ample accommodations provided for them than any other class of dealers. Besides the New Shambles, there are numerous shops provided for them in the neighbourhood both of the Central and South markets. The dealers in game, under the new act, have no specific place of concentration, but are promiscuously scattered over the town.

One of the most signal and beneficial improvements ever accomplished in the town of Leeds, was the institution of the Free Market in Vicar Lane and Kirkgate. The Vicar's Croft, as the plot of ground was called, which is now occupied by the market, was a field immediately adjoining the Vicarage on the west side, overgrown with weeds, and the common receptacle of every abomination. How such a place was ever suffered to exist in the centre of a large town, is indeed astonishing. Mr. Alexander Turner, one of the aldermen, had long anticipated the possibility of the transformation of this croft into a public square or market, and had erected some houses on the north side of it capacitated for the purposes of trade. His hopes, however, were never realized during his life time. Three private individuals, Mr. Frederick Rinder, Mr. Heaps, and another applied to the Vicar, and offered to purchase the croft with the intention of afterwards offering it to the town. In the mean time Mr. Lepton Dobson repaired to the Vicar, and succeeded in laying the foundation of an agreement which ultimately led to the institution of the Free Market. On the twenty eighth of August, 1823, a meeting of the most influential inhabitants within one mile of the bars, was held in the vestry of the parish church, and decided unanimously, that the Vicarage House with the outbuildings, yards, gardens, and croft, including altogether about nine thousand seven hundred and fifty eight square yards of land, should be purchased for the purpose of widening the adjoining streets and lanes, and improving the market by affording ample accommodation for the dealers in cattle, pigs, hay, vegetables, fruit, and other commodities. Because the farmers and graziers, however, preferred the payment of a consideration, a small toll

* The estimate formed by the trade of the value of this alteration may be ascertained from the fact that soon after it was completed, sixty six butchers published their recommendation of the place "as being by far the most eligible situation which had been offered to their notice."

has since been demanded. The value of the great improvement which was thus effected can only be estimated by referring to the almost intolerable nuisances which on market days rendered the streets almost unpassable. The cow market with all its confusion, the pig market formerly held in Lower Head Row, the pot market, the vegetable market, formerly held in Briggate, and the fish market, held in the middle of the same street, were all at once removed to a site admirably adapted for the purpose, where proper stalls were prepared for the cattle, and where every accommodation was provided for the venders and purchasers of the usual marketable commodities. In 1827 a fortnight sheep and cattle fair was instituted in the Free Market, which has ever since been held on each alternate Wednesday, and has proved equally convenient to the dealers of the country and the butchers of the town.

The change was beneficial to the vicars, as well as to the town of Leeds. The ancient vicarage house and the adjoining premises were given by William Scott of Potternewton, in 1458, and the house itself, no doubt the third on the site, was rebuilt in 1727, by the Rev. Mr. Cookson, at that time vicar. When the house and croft were purchased for the market, the parishioners bought an excellent mansion in Park Square to be the future residence of the vicars, who were thus removed from the midst of smoke, and filth, and noise, to one of the best, one of the most respectable, and one of the most salubrious situations in the town.

The property in the neighbourhood of the market rapidly rose in value, and the alteration in every sense has proved conducive to health, to comfort, to trade, and to universal convenience. The projectors of the Free Market deserve the gratitude of Leeds.

The Central Market, in Duncan Street, is one of the principal ornaments of the town. The first stone was laid by Lepton Dobson, Esq. on November 26, 1824, and it was opened on the 6th of October, 1827, with great spirit and animation, and before a great multitude of spectators. The front exhibits a handsome elevation of Grecian architecture, consisting of a central division and lateral wings; the former is composed of two fluted Ionic columns, raised on low plinths, with a corresponding number of antæ, and crowned with an entablature, the words Central

Market being inscribed upon the architrave. A lofty door-way between the columns, leads into the market itself. The wings are two stories high, the lower story being divided into spacious shops, and the upper story having three windows on each side of the centre. The whole elevation is crowned with an architrave, cornice, and blocking course, and immediately over the centre is a large acroterium. The interior is very spacious and commodious, the centre is divided into three walks with stalls, and a gallery is carried round three sides of the building, with a bazaar on one side. The entire expense of the whole edifice, including the purchase of the ground, &c. amounted to thirty five thousand pounds. The small streets or alleys round the edifice contain a number of shops for butchers and other tradesmen. An avenue on the north affords access to Kirkgate and the Free Market, and a new opening into Briggate completed this year (1833) and called Market Street, is a great public convenience. From the very handsome appearance of the shops, and the excellent accommodation which they afford to retail dealers of all descriptions, it is to be hoped that this street will be the means of rendering the Central Market a more profitable affair than it has yet proved to its proprietors, and there is no doubt that it will become one of the most frequented thoroughfares in the town.

The South Market, between Hunslet and Meadow Lanes, was projected in 1823. On the sixteenth of June in that year, a meeting of persons favourable to the undertaking was held in the Court House, and the Leeds South Market Company was formed. The funds were provided by four hundred shares at fifty pounds each. On the sixteenth of October the foundation stone was laid by George Banks, Esq. This market consists of a number of commodious and uniform shops for retail dealers, surrounding a spacious area, in the centre of which is a circular temple or cross, composed of twelve Doric pillars outside, and the same number within; the exterior columns support a bold entablature, and above is a large cupola with twelve attached columns, and a hemispherical dome covered with lead. Mr. Chantrell was the architect of this market; both the design and execution are honourable to his taste and skill. The expense of the whole amounted to twenty two thousand pounds. This speculation has been a decided failure, the expectations of the proprietors have never been

realized, and the income arising from the Quarterly Leather Fairs,* which are held here, and from the rent of the shops, has never afforded any thing like adequate interest for the money which was expended.

Soon after the completion of the South Market, a project was formed to remove to that place the Corn Market which had long been held in Cross Parish—a name imposed upon the northern extremity of Briggate prior to the subversion of the Middle Row. It was acknowledged by all parties "that among all the institutions in the town of Leeds of a commercial character, there was none of greater importance and interest than an eligible Corn Market or Corn Exchange, to which all persons could resort with safety, convenience, and comfort."† But it was contended that the South Market was a most inconvenient and remote situation, and that it would be for the benefit both of the agriculturalists, the dealers, and the inhabitants, were a suitable building to be erected for the purpose at the summit of Briggate. Three gentlemen‡ ascertained that the premises which were deemed the best calculated for the purpose were attainable, and a long lease was obtained from Mrs Barron, the owner of the ground upon which the buildings were to be erected, of 999 years, at three hundred pounds per annum. At the meeting which was held upon the subject, it was stated that the requisite sum was to be raised by two hundred and fifty shares of fifty pounds each, and one hundred were taken up when the annunciation was made. The first stone of the present Corn Exchange was laid in a private manner by Mr. John Cawood, on the thirty first of May, 1826; that of the west wing on the twenty seventh of January, 1827; and that of the principal wing, with great solemnity, on the twenty seventh of August in the same year. The front of this Exchange is extremely neat, its position is very commanding, and it forms by far the most striking object in Briggate. Two Ionic columns with Antæ support an entablature and pediment, and a small bell turret is raised above the whole. Between the columns is a niche with the statue of Queen Anne we have already described, and

* The first Quarterly Leather Fair was held in the South Market on October 17th, 1827.

† Speech of Mr. Jonathan Lupton, chairman of the meeting of gentlemen interested in the question.

‡ Messrs. F. Rinder, Medley, Jun. and Kemplay.

beneath it is the following inscription: "This statue of Queen Anne was erected at the cost of Alderman Milner in the front of the ancient Moot Hall A.D. 1712; was restored at the expense of the corporation, and transferred to this site A.D. 1828; the Moot Hall having been purchased by the town and demolished, A.D. 1825." At the back of the building is a court with a piazza, where the dealers exhibit their samples and conclude their sales, and at the left hand side of the entrance is an excellent and commodious hotel. Mr. S. Chapman was the architect.

The erection of the Corn Exchange was followed by another improvement which it would be unpardonable not to mention. Upper Head Row was formerly a narrow and dangerous alley rather than a street; and its north side consisted of irregular, unsightly, and inconvenient houses. The whole of this side which was pious use property, with a most praiseworthy attention to public safety and accommodation, was pulled down, and a handsome regular range of brick buildings was reared, while the street was considerably widened, and an excellent pavement was provided for the passengers.

The most splendid, elegant, and classical structure in Leeds, and by far the most honourable to the taste and public spirit of its inhabitants, is that which is generally designated the Commercial Buildings. The site is the most eligible which could possibly have been selected, opposite the grand entrance into the town from the west, immediately in front of the greatest Cloth-market in the world, and in the vicinity of the most opulent, the most respectable, and the most handsome departments of Leeds. The preparatory arrangements of the proprietors were conducted with equal prudence and liberality, and obtained the general approbation of their fellow townsmen. Mr. Clark was
May 18, 1826. the architect they employed, and the first stone was laid by Lepton Dobson, Esq. whose name is connected with so many of the public buildings of the borough. The plan of this magnificent structure is a parallelogram, with its southwestern corner rounded off, and formed into a spacious and elegant portico. The entire edifice is of stone, and the architecture is Grecian. The portico is composed of four fluted Ionic columns, crowned with an entablature and surmounted with an attic concave in its form and the hollow of which is filled with steps set on in the main wall of the building. Behind the portico rises a circular dome, crowned with

a cornice, and enriched with Grecian tiles. The southern front presents five divisions constituted by four engaged columns of the same order with those of the portico, and two antæ; the whole crowned with an entablature and attic continued from the portico, the attic being broken by pilasters above the columns. Two tier of five windows each, separated by pannels, appear in the principal intercolumnication. The western front precisely corresponds with the southern, except that it has two engaged columns, and the tiers contain only three windows each. The northern and western fronts not being so completely open to observation, are of a plainer character but harmonize with the other parts of the building. The interior corresponds with the external appearance of the structure; the staircase, formed within a circular hall thirty-four feet in diameter and crowned with a beautiful panelled dome and a light of stained glass, is very magnificent. The news room to the right of the vestibule is the handsomest apartment in the building, and is equal in general appearance to any other in the kingdom. The concert room, above the news room, is also large and richly ornamented, and is admirably adapted for public purposes. There are several other excellent apartments devoted to various objects; on the western side is the office of the Assurance Company, and part of the building has usually been occupied as an hotel. The whole expense incurred by the purchase of the ground and the building amounted to nearly thirty-five thousand pounds. The news room was opened on May-day, 1829, with five hundred subscribers of one guinea and a half per annum, and the whole interior was completely finished and formally opened on the twelfth of October in the same year.

SECTION V. LEEDS CONTINUED.

THE improvement which was effected some years ago on Timble Bridge, and on the North side of the Old Church, must not be forgotten in this enumeration. This bridge, vulgarly called Timble Brigg, is a corruption of Temple, the Temple Bridge, and received its name as being in the way to the establishment at Temple Newsam. The street at the bottom of Kirkgate was formerly so narrow as to be not only inconvenient but dangerous, but by the removal of an abutting corner of the church yard, it has been widened so as to allow of free transit to the numerous vehicles and passengers to and from the great roads to York and Ferrybridge.

Another improvement remains to be noticed in this neighbourhood between the Old Church and the river in the Calls, where a wide street has been opened running parallel with the river.

With reference to the name just mentioned, *The Calls*, two derivations have been given. It has been supposed on the one hand that the name was derived from some old piles, usually denominated Calls, on the banks of the river—and on the other hand from the Latin word *Callis*, a beaten path, whence Calls. The former of these derivations appears the more probable. At the beginning of the last century, the Calls consisted of a footway through verdant fields and flowery gardens; and Thoresby* tells us that Alderman Cookson had erected here "a very pleasant seat with terras walks, &c." And Thoresby himself built his summer house in the midst of these delightful scenes. What a change now to the numerous raff yards, the noisy streets and dense population! It is unnecessary to observe that Call Lane derived its name from its proximity to the Calls.

The commutation of all the mixed and personal tithes pay-

* Ducat. 76.

able to the Vicar and Clerk of Leeds, was happily accomplished in the same year in which the purchase of the ground of the Free Market was completed. To understand the nature of the nuisance which was thus taken away, and to illustrate the nature of similar nuisances in other parts of the country, we shall give a brief statement of the tithes which the Vicar was entitled to exact. The tithes or agistment of herbage of turnips sown and eaten upon the ground by barren and unprofitable cattle, and which if sold, the tithes were to be paid by the occupier of the ground after the rate of one tenth of the money the turnips were sold for—the agistment of barren and unprofitable cattle, and the tithe of potatoes grown and gathered, and turnips pulled from the ground—the payment of threepence yearly from each householder residing within the bars of the town in respect of his dwelling-house, and one penny annually for an Easter offering—the payment of twopence annually in lieu of the tithes of an ancient garden, and a customary payment of twopence annually in lieu of tithes of an ancient orchard—the payment of a penny in respect of each "plow" kept upon every tenement in the parish, and the payment of twopence in lieu of each calf dropt and of the milk of each cow, and of one halfpenny in lieu of eggs of each duck, and twopence annually in lieu of tithe of hens' eggs laid upon each tenement—an offering annually for each person above the age of sixteen years resident in the family of each householder in the parish—the tithe of rapeseed, common, and other modern gardens—the annual payment of six shillings in lieu of tithe milk whenever a parishioner kept twelve cows, for six cows two shillings, for six calves dropt in one tenement in one year six shillings, five calves one shilling and fourpence, and four calves tenpence—the payment of twopence annually from each householder residing within the bars, one penny for the tithe agistment of one dry and unprofitable cow, one penny in lieu of tithes of bees, except where six swarms are had in one year, in which case one swarm is due, one penny in lieu of tithes of eggs layed by each turkey, and sixpence in lieu of each foal dropt within the parish. And the Vicar was also entitled to all other tithes great and small, offerings, and other ecclesiastical dues within the parish, except the tithes of corn, grain, and hay, and of the King's Mills.

Now letting alone the impolicy and injustice of thus taxing the produce of the field, the stock of the farm yard, and the general industry of the people, it is obvious that these imposts can never

be collected without the excitement of every description of feeling inimical to the welfare of the church and the comfort of its ministers. The immense public benefit of the commutation of tithes in the town and parish of Leeds, is principally attributable to the munificence of Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq. It was arranged that these tithes were to be commuted upon the payment of an annual income to the Vicar of five hundred pounds arising from fourteen thousand pounds. Mr. Wilson gave seven thousand pounds of this sum, and the other half was raised by public subscription. The commutation commenced in the year 1823.

Among the public buildings in Leeds, the Baths in Wellington Street deserve distinct reference. The architect was Mr. Chantrell, and the first stone was laid May 15, 1819. The exterior of this edifice is too low to produce much effect, but it displays elegant and classical taste. The centre is distinguished by two couples of Ionic columns, supporting an entablature, and at the end are coupled pilasters. The interior contains two complete suits of apartments, those in the west wing being appropriated to the ladies, and those in the east to the gentlemen. The water is derived from an excellent spring at the distance of ninety yards from the surface, and the baths consist of cold and shower, and Matlock and Buxton baths, at their respective temperatures.

The Barrack System, especially in large and populous manufacturing towns, may without any hesitation be pronounced an unmixed and an enormous evil. From this curse Leeds is not exempt. The spacious cavalry barracks at Buslingthorpe, between the roads to Roundhay and Chapel Allerton, were built in 1819 and 1820, when it was foolishly supposed that the manufacturing districts were on the verge of insurrection and rebellion. Messrs. Whitaker and Craven were the contractors for the buildings, and the expense of their erection, with the necessary appendages, amounted to upwards of twenty five thousand pounds. The barracks for the officers and men, the stables and the parade grounds, occupy rather more than eleven acres, and the situation is both salubrious and commanding. The head quarters and the largest proportion of a regiment of cavalry, have usually been stationed at these barracks, but latterly some horse artillery and a troop of dragoons have constituted the whole of the military force at the station.

Some years since a magnificent plan was formed of erecting some spacious and elegant streets, squares, &c. in the neighbourhood of the barracks, upon the whole of which the name of the New Town of Leeds was to be imposed. Although a very large sum of money was expended in preparing the ground and forming the lines of the intended streets, the project has never yet been accomplished.

The Commercial, the Literary, the Ecclesiastical, and the Charitable buildings, will be described in their respective places.

The parochial affairs of the township of Leeds are managed by a Committee consisting of the Churchwardens and Overseers, with the co-operation of twelve of "the principal inhabitants," chosen at the vestry meetings by the rate payers. These officers hold their committee meetings weekly in the afternoon of Wednesday for the relief of the casual poor, and for the transaction of the public business. Neither the Overseers nor the Trustees, as such, take any part in the management of the secular affairs of the Church that duty being confided solely to the Churchwardens.*

About a dozen years ago a long and animated controversy arose in this township and parish relating to the publication of the public accounts, one party of the parishioners contending strongly for the annual exhibition of these accounts in a printed form, and the other resisting that claim with equal decision. Mr. Baines, one of the Trustees of the Workhouse, by whom the claim on the part of the parishioners was first advanced, insisted that it was the right of every rate-prayer to know how his money was expended, and to be furnished with every facility at fixed periods for ascertaining and comparing the yearly expenditure; while on the other hand it was alledged that this was an useless innovation, that the parishioners had hitherto been satisfied with referring to the parish books when they wished to make any examination, and that it was sufficient if the Committee forming the Workhouse Board and the Churchwardens had an annual

* For the very lucid statement which follows this paragraph, the author is indebted to the gentleman by whose most laudable perseverance, principle, and public spirit the great work of reform in the parochial expenditure has been accomplished, and who, if he had done nothing else for the town of which he has for so many years been a useful inhabitant, would be fully entitled to its permanent gratitude.

statement made out of the accounts of the township and of the Parish Church for their audit and inspection.

For two or three years such of the parish officers as supported the old system were enabled to resist the call for publication, but the demand every year became more loud and imperative, till at length it was determined by a majority of the parishioners to stop the supplies, or at most not to vote any thing more than was absolutely necessary either for the maintenance of the church or for any public improvement in the town. Lepton Dobson, Esq. who had witnessed the protracted struggle with interest, on being elevated in the year 1821 to the office of Mayor of the Borough, took the first public opportunity to declare that he was a friend to the utmost publicity in all matters of public trust, and that so far from resisting the loudly raised call for the publication of the parish accounts, he should, to the best of his power, promote that object. Further resistance was soon found unavailing, the accounts relating both to the relief of the poor, and the upholding of the edifice of the church, were soon after published, and from about the year 1819 to the present time that salutary practice has been continued annually.

The yearly amount of the expenditure upon the Parish Church had long been a matter of complaint, particularly amongst the parishioners residing in the out-townships of the parish, and amongst those who did not join in the public ordinances of the established church; it was not however till it had been resolved to erect three new churches within this township by the Church Commissioners appointed by Parliament, and till the pressure arising from the outfit and annual maintenance of those churches began to be felt, that the parish reformers, consisting principally of those who had so long and so strenuously demanded the publication of the accounts, began to insist upon a more rigid system of economy than had hitherto prevailed in this branch of the public expenditure. Here the resistance made to all change was again very strong. The proposal to reduce this branch of the parish imposts one half, was treated as a visionary project, propapagated to mislead the public, but wholly incapable of being reduced to practice. The event, however, proved that all that had been anticipated could be realized, Churchwardens favourable to economy were chosen, and in the hands of Mr. John Armitage Buttery, the senior Churchwarden, and his fellow

officers, the average annual expenditure has been reduced nearly one thousand pounds a year, though there are now four churches to uphold and was formerly only one,* as will be seen from the following notice extracted from the parish books:—

Statement of the Amount of Church Rates collected in the Parish of Leeds, for the last Thirty Years, exclusive of the sums collected for Burial Ground.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1803....	1286	2	9	1813....	1856	0	0	1823....	1496	18	8
1804....	1196	3	6	1814....	1253	7	7	1824....	1719	4	11
1805....	690	19	4	1815....	1978	11	1	1825....	1652	11	11
1806....	919	14	4	1816....	2290	19	1	1826....	1344	2	6
1807....	1203	6	0	1817....	1967	2	11	1827....	842	15	7
1808....	1535	1	10	1818....	1103	11	5	1828....	2115	16	8
1809....	1667	19	6	1819....	1402	14	6	1829....	989	5	9
1810....	2447	9	10	1820....	1782	5	6	1830....	866	0	11
1811....	2428	3	6	1821....	1245	5	0	1831....	721	10	9
1812....	2516	15	7	1822....	1253	1	5	1832....	562	16	5

The extraordinary saving within the four last years is principally to be attributed to the judicious choice made by the parishioners of their officers, and to that watchful attention over their own affairs which is the best, and indeed the only permanent security against profusion.

The year 1832 was signalised in the history of Leeds by the visitation of that awful scourge the Malignant Cholera. This is not the place to enter upon any statement of the nature of the disease, its original source, the mode of its propagation, the prevention of its ravages, or the methods of its cure. Nor will it correspond with the design of this work to trace its progress in this kingdom in general. We have simply to describe its apparent causes, its advance, and its decline in this town. The first case occurred on the twenty-sixth of May 1832, in the person of a child two years old, of Irish parents, residing in the Blue Bell Fold. With respect to the origin of the disease, Mr. Robert Baker, to whom the town is deeply indebted for the care with which he has investigated the subject, states, "It is true that at this time the Cholera prevailed at Goole and Selby lower down the river, but by the most careful inquiries, I am not able to trace any connexion between those places and Leeds, by which the disease

* St. Mark's Church, at Woodhouse, was last year declared a district church, and will not in future come into the general returns of the parish.

might have been communicated to this child; on the contrary, its age, its situation, and other circumstances, forbid the possibility of such an occurrence."*

Every possible precaution had been taken prior to the appearance of the disease, to counteract its progress; and every expedient that human prudence could suggest, that human benevolence could afford, and that human skill could apply, was adopted with the utmost promptitude by one of the most efficient local Boards of Health in the kingdom. All nuisances and collections of filth were removed from the streets and the neighbourhood of the houses; the dwelling places of the poor were whitewashed and cleaned; large sums of money were collected by subscription to be expended in providing warm clothing and nourishment for the poor;† in each district into which the town was divided, experienced medical men were appointed to administer the requisite assistance to the sick; an excellent hospital, with medical and other attendants, was provided; an earnest entreaty was published to every one attacked with premonitory symptoms, to apply without delay for professional advice; and similar addresses were circulated to demonstrate the vast importance of prudence, cleanliness, and temperance.

Notwithstanding, however, every precaution, the disease made rapid progress; it arrived at its height in August; and afterwards gradually subsided, until in November it entirely disappeared. In the month of May, there were two cases and one death—in June, there were one hundred and sixty-four cases, forty-two deaths, and seventy-one recoveries—in July, there were four hundred and twenty-seven cases, one hundred and eighty-seven deaths, and two hundred and fifty-five recoveries—in August, there were six hundred and sixty-eight cases, two hundred and seventy-three deaths, and three hundred and seventy-two recoveries—in September, there were three hundred and thirty-four cases, one hundred and twenty-three deaths, and two hundred and twenty-eight recoveries—in October, there were two hundred and sixteen cases, seventy-three deaths, and one hundred and eighty-two recoveries—and up to November 12th there were six new cases, while three deaths, and seventeen recoveries completely cleared the hospital. The greatest number of cases was on the sixteenth of August, when there were fifty-nine cases and twenty-

* Report of the Leeds Board of Health, 7.

† This excellent example of benevolence was almost solitary.

one deaths. During the whole period of the disease, there were one thousand eight hundred and seventeen cases, seven hundred and two deaths, and one thousand one hundred and fifteen recoveries. Mr. Baker has collected some curious particulars relative to this disease. It appears from his statement, that in one family several persons were attacked at one time; in another, five; in three others, four; in seven others, three; and in fifty three others, two. One person had the disease three times and recovered, and three persons had it twice, of whom two recovered, and one died. Although many of the medical men were attacked with premonitory symptoms while they were in attendance on the sick, not one of them had it in its blue stage, and only one of the hospital nurses had it in its worst form.

If calamity is to be estimated by comparison, then the visitation of the cholera, appalling and afflictive as it was, will appear insignificant when the tremendous ravages of the plague in 1645, of which we have already given a history, are brought to recollection. On that occasion, one thousand three hundred and twenty five persons, supposed by an accurate investigation to have been one fifth of the whole population, died; on the latter occasion, seven hundred and two persons died, about the one hundred and eighth of the whole population. We have already stated (p. 100) that in the former case, the disease principally prevailed and was the most fatal, in those parts of the town which were the most dirty, the most densely inhabited, the worst ventilated, and where the majority of those unfortunate persons resided who may be supposed to have been the most addicted to vice and intemperance. The same statement will apply to the cholera, Mr. Baker specifying the Boot and Shoe Yard, Baxter's Yard, Quarry Hill, Cherry Tree Yard, Goulden's Buildings, Lemon Street, Marsh Lane, Fleece Lane, and Lee's Yard, as the places where the highest lists of cholera attacks were produced.

Calamity is seldom unmitigated, and good is almost always elicited from evil. The occurrence of the cholera is likely to prove the means of effecting one of the greatest improvements in the town of Leeds, and of inducing an alteration absolutely necessary to the health of its inhabitants. The state of the sewers, water courses, and drains in the town has long been most deplorable, and there is no reason to doubt that the disease was greatly aggravated by the filth of every description,* which had been per-

* The disease has prevailed in Leeds most particularly in those parts of it

mitted to accumulate for ages in those worse than useless receptacles of every abomination. But this state of things will now be no longer endured; the attention of the inhabitants has been fully aroused to the subject; and a general change must soon be effected. The medical men of Leeds have laudably distinguished themselves by their earnest, their forcible representations upon this subject. By the desire of the Board of Health they met at
Jan. 16. the commencement of the present year (1833) and passed the following resolution, on the motion of Dr. Williamson, seconded by Mr. Garlick, Dr. Thorp being in the chair—"That we whose names are undersigned are of opinion, that the streets in which malignant cholera prevailed most severely, were those in which the drainage was most imperfect; and that the state of the general health of the inhabitants would be greatly improved, and the probability of a future visitation from such malignant epidemics diminished, by a general and efficient system of drainage, sewerage, and paving, and the enforcement of better regulations as to the cleanliness of the streets." This resolution was signed by six physicians and thirty eight surgeons. Five days afterwards,
Jan. 21. this resolution, and the very elaborate report upon the subject by Mr. Baker were adopted at a meeting of the Board of Health; that body formally declared their opinion, that a general act of parliament for sewering, draining, cleansing, and paving, would prove a public benefit; it was determined that an application upon the subject should be made to the proper department of government, and John Marshall, Jun. Esq., one of the newly elected members of parliament for the borough, undertook to wait personally upon the proper authorities in London, and to call their particular attention to the facts and arguments contained in the report.*

We cannot conclude this brief account of the visit of the cholera to Leeds, without asserting, that the gratitude of the town is

where from a want of local cleanliness and ventilation a malignant state of the atmosphere was likely to obtain. In such situations, the epidemic malaria seems to have infested the dwellings of the inhabitants. Baker, p. 8.

* There is one sentence in the pamphlet of Mr. Baker which demands serious consideration. "I think I have made out a case sufficiently strong to warrant the presumption, that whether the disease be sporadical, epidemical, or endemical—whatever may be the secret cause, there is evidence enough before this board, of the condition of some parts of the town of Leeds *in which it may be latently maintained.*" To prevent then the recurrence of the disease it is absolutely necessary that the alteration should take place.

justly demanded by the general arrangements of the Board of Health, and the most meritorious and truly admirable conduct of the medical men; and that the active and munificent benevolence displayed by a very large proportion of the inhabitants in this awful crisis, towards those who by their unfortunate and destitute circumstances were peculiarly liable to the ravages of the disease, will impart a lustre, to the latest posterity, to one of the brightest pages in the whole history of the town.

We have already described the transaction which occurred in Leeds during the Commonwealth, and which issued in the return of Adam Baynes, Esq. of Knowstrop, to parliament as the representative of the town. After the lapse of one hundred and seventy years, it became probable from some proceedings of the legislature, that it would again be entrusted with the honour of sending members to the house of Commons. The corruption and profligacy which had been clearly proved against the electors of Grampound, induced Lord John Russel to bring a bill into parliament to disfranchise that insignificant borough, and that no diminution might be effected in the number of the popular representatives, that nobleman proposed that Leeds, having "of late years become a place of great trade, population, and wealth, should return two burgesses to serve in parliament in lieu of the said borough of Grampound." Had this bill passed into an act, the inhabitants of Leeds would have been placed on pretty near the same footing as they have occupied since the establishment of the great measure of reform, for it was proposed that every individual holding property to the amount of ten pounds per annum, should have a vote. Mr. Wortley, afterwards Lord Wharncliffe, however, thought that this would create too extensive a constituency, and he therefore proposed that the qualification of an elector should be raised to twenty pounds per annum. This proposition was acceded to by the house of Commons, but the bill was thrown out of the Lords, and it was ultimately enacted, that the county should return four members instead of two. Had the measure of Lord John Russel been carried, it would have been impossible to have refused the elective franchise to Manchester, to Birmingham, and to Sheffield; and had the practice of transferring the franchises of corrupt boroughs to populous towns been adopted, it is probable that the extensive reform in the whole system of representation which has lately been accomplished, would not have been achieved at so early a period.

By the memorable act of 1832, the right of the borough of Leeds to return two members to the house of Commons was finally recognized. To describe the anxiety which prevailed in this town during the alarming period when the Reform Bill, and the administration by which it was introduced and supported, were in jeopardy—to give a detailed history of the numerous public meetings which were held, of the energetic spirit which was displayed, and of the overwhelming manner in which public opinion lifted up its voice in the borough of Leeds at this crisis in the national affairs, would occupy too extended a space in these volumes; we can only state that the proceedings adopted by the inhabitants of Leeds not only coincided with the general sentiments and convictions of the vast majority of the people in every part of the kingdom, but materially contributed to sustain the hopes and invigorate the exertions of the other towns in the West Riding, and had no inconsiderable influence upon the legislature and the empire.

After the dissolution of the last parliament under the old system, three candidates were brought forwards by the two great political parties in the borough of Leeds. Thomas Babington Macaulay, Esq. and John Marshall Jun. Esq. were proposed by the Liberal or Whig party, and Michael Thomas Sadler, Esq. by the Blue or Tory party. A description of the respective qualifications of these gentlemen will be found in the note below.* On

* "One of the gentlemen called forward by the liberal party was T. B. Macaulay, Esq. the late member for Calne, and one of the Commissioners of the Board of Control for the affairs of India, the most eloquent supporter, and one of the most ardent friends of the Reform Bill in the House of Commons, who, being personally unknown to every one of the individuals who called him forward, and unconnected with the borough, was invited, and now stands purely on the ground of his public principles and character, and of the distinguished services he has rendered to the country. Mr. Macaulay was invited many months before he accepted office under his Majesty's Government; yet the fact of his acceptance of office did not make the slightest difference in the attachment of his friends, or rather it increased their zeal, as they were desirous of testifying their gratitude to the administration to whose great and patriotic measure of Reform this borough owes the possession of its franchise, and the country the renovation of its representative system. The other gentleman, to whom the liberal electors of Leeds were desirous of confiding their representation in Parliament, was John Marshall, jun. Esq. son of the venerable and patriotic gentleman, who lately represented the county of York in Parliament. Mr. Marshall had made himself known to his fellow-townsmen, as the firm and consistent supporter of Civil and Religious Liberty and Parliamentary Reform, as the enemy of all monopolies, and practically, as well as

Tuesday, September 4, 1832, the candidates presented themselves to the electors in the area of the Mixed Cloth Hall, and their canvass was afterwards instituted with great activity and spirit; Mr. Sadler adopting the old system of proceeding from house to house and personally soliciting the votes of the electors, while the liberal candidates declined to avail themselves of the advantages of personal application, but at the same time addressed the electors in all the great divisions of the borough, at once to exhibit their own opinions upon the great topics of local and national interest, and to answer the inquiries which might be proposed by those who entertained any hesitation or demanded any satisfaction upon their political principles. The Revising Barrister appointed by the Reform law, Wilkinson Matthews, Esq. held his court on Wednesday, October 24, and the result of the proceedings was highly favourable to the liberals. The activity of the two great parties in the town from this period to the day of nomination was unbounded, and the utility and efficiency of the different systems of canvassing adopted was fairly tried before the contest was ultimately decided.

On Dec. 10, 1832, the day of nomination, both the parties mustered in considerable strength. Messrs. Marshall and Macaulay with their friends breakfasted at the Commercial Buildings, and Mr. Sadler and his friends at Crossland's Hotel. Hustings were erected in the area of the Mixed Cloth Hall, capable of containing five hundred persons; here the candidates appeared with their principal supporters; and twenty thousand persons occupied the space in front. About ten o'clock, the Mayor, Thomas Tennant, Esq., opened the proceedings of the day. Henry Hall, Esq. then proposed Michael Thomas Sadler, Esq. and William Beckett,

theoretically, the zealous friend of popular education; as intimately acquainted with the principles and details of commerce; and as possessing sound judgment, entire independence, and habits of diligent application.

"The candidate brought forward in opposition to these gentlemen was Michael Thomas Sadler, Esq. then member for Aldborough, a gentleman of considerable talent, who had then made himself conspicuous in the country by his opposition to Religious Liberty, to Parliamentary Reform, and to Freedom of Trade, as well as, more honourably, by his advocacy of Poor Laws in Ireland, and the introduction of a Bill into the House of Commons, to limit the labours of children in factories to ten hours per day. Mr. Sadler was brought forward by the Tory party, amongst which were several members of the Leeds Corporation, and his cause was also joined by a number of persons of the opposite extreme in politics, who rested their support on his introduction of the Ten Hours Bill."

Esq. seconded the nomination. Thomas Benyon, Jun. Esq. proposed John Marshall, Jun. Esq. and James Musgrave, Esq. seconded the nomination. John Marshall, Esq. the late member for the county, proposed Mr. Macaulay, and George Rawson, Esq. seconded the nomination. When the usual shew of hands was called for, the Mayor unhesitatingly pronounced it to be in favour of Messrs. Marshall and Macaulay. A poll was then demanded by Mr. Hall, for Mr. Sadler, and the Mayor appointed it to commence on the ensuing Wednesday morning. The proceedings on this occasion were interrupted by a disgraceful riot which at one time assumed the most alarming appearance, and in which, as is usual in similar cases, both parties were equally culpable. When Mr. Marshall came forward to propose Mr. Macaulay, some of the blue party placed before him a flag, inscribed "A scene in Water Lane at five o'clock in the morning," on which was depicted his own mill in Water Lane, with a number of children passing through a snow storm to their work. The liberals resented this proceeding, a tremendous cry of "Down with it," resounded through the assembly, a number of the adherents of Marshall and Macaulay made a rush upon the possessors of the obnoxious banner, and succeeded after a brisk conflict in pulling it down. Violence was repaid with violence. The blues made a desperate charge upon their opponents, and a regular battle was fought; sticks, bludgeons, and the broken pieces of the poles of banners were used as the offensive weapons; many persons were thrown down and trampled upon, and others received dreadful cuts on the head and face; a considerable number of the orange party retired for a short time from the yard; and the proceedings were not resumed until a great number of special constables were ordered by the Mayor to station themselves in a direct line from the middle of the hustings to the other side of the yard, and thus to form a marked division between the hostile parties. It is sincerely hoped that such a scandalous scene will never again be witnessed in this town. Eleven persons were taken to the Infirmary, four of whom were so seriously hurt that they were immediately placed on the list of in-patients.

On Wednesday the twelfth of December the polling commenced with great activity. The following were the arrangements made on the occasion. The polling booth for the South and South-west divisions was placed at No. 39, East Buildings, near the South Market in Hunslet Lane—the booth for the Mill Hill Division, at the Court House in Park Row—the booth for the Lower

North-west Division, at the Coloured Cloth Hall in Infirmary street—the booth for the North and Upper North-east Divisions, at the Free Grammar School in North street—the booth for the High Town Division, at the Corn Exchange in Briggate—the booth for the Kirkgate Division, at the Assembly Rooms—the booth for the East, North East, Lower North East, and South East Divisions, at the house next below the Sir John Falstaff in St. Peter's Square—and the booth for the Upper North West Division, at the dwelling house, No. 44, Cobourg Street. For the out townships the following facilities were afforded for voting. The booth for Hunslet was fixed at the Methodist School Room in Hunslet—the booth for Holbeck and Beeston, at the Overseer's Committee Room adjoining the Workhouse in Holbeck—the booth for Wortley, Armley, and Farnley, at the Star public house in Wortley—the booth for Bramley, at the public School Room in the Methodist Chapel Yard—the booth for Headingley-cum-Burley, at the public school room occupied by Mr. Brook at Headingley—and the booth for Chapel Allerton and Potter Newton, at the dwelling house lately occupied by Mr. Farmery, near the chapel in Chapel Allerton. On Thursday afternoon the poll, which had been conducted throughout with great order and regularity, finally closed, and on Friday morning the result was officially declared by the Mayor as returning officer, in the Yard of the Mixed Cloth Hall. The following table will shew the state of the poll at each of the booths.

		Marsh.	Mac.	Sad.
Booth A.	South and South West Divisions	165	157	79
Booth B.	Mill Hill Division	170	161	149
Booth C.	Lower North West Division	163	170	130
Booth D.	North, and Upper North East Divisions	169	172	152
Booth E.	High Town Division	168	150	173
Booth F.	Kirkgate Division	134	130	102
Booth G.	East, North East, Lower North East, and South East Divisions	179	183	122
Booth H.	Upper North West Division	140	125	151
	OUT TOWNSHIPS.			
Booth I.	Hunslet	146	152	65
Booth K.	Holbeck and Beeston	143	134	91
Booth L.	Wortley, Armley, and Farnley	139	164	166
Booth M.	Bramley	201	205	81
Booth N.	Headingley-cum-Burley	50	36	53
Booth O.	Chapel Allerton and Potternewton	45	45	82
Total		2012	1984	1596

The Majority for Mr. Marshall was therefore four hundred and sixteen, and for Mr. Macaulay three hundred and eighty eight.

At a quarter before eleven o'clock, on Friday, December 14, the Mayor and a number of the electors executed the indenture of return, and the former terminated the contest by saying, "I have now the pleasure of telling you that the return of two burgesses to parliament for this borough is completed, and in your name and in my own, I heartily congratulate the successful candidates, and wish them all health and happiness, and I have no doubt that they will do credit to your choice, and prove active, useful, and independent members of parliament." Messrs. Marshall and Macaulay, Lord Morpeth who happened to be present, and Mr. Fawkes of Farnley, then addressed the electors, and thanks were voted by acclamation to the Mayor. The members were then chaired in triumph through the principal streets of the town, in the presence of an immense concourse of people, and their return was celebrated by a dinner at the Commercial Buildings in the evening.

Thus terminated the first election for the borough of Leeds—a memorable epoch in its history. No remarks are required to illustrate the importance of the event to the commercial, the manufacturing, and the general interests of the district and of the kingdom. During the course of this election, as is almost unavoidable on such occasions, the spirit of party was carried to a violent extreme, and angry passions were excited by recrimination and abuse. The effervescence began, however, to subside as soon as the conflict was finished, and it is hoped that in the course of time its very traces will be eradicated. It may be added that as a tribute of respect to the important interests he represents, Mr. Marshall was selected on the meeting of the first Reform parliament to second the address on the royal speech.

We shall now place before the reader some miscellaneous particulars relative to the history of Leeds, which could not be systematically arranged in the preceding narrative.

Among the numerous FLOODS with which this town has been visited, the highest and most tremendous ever known occurred on the 20th and 21st of October, 1775, when the bridges at Calverley and Swillington were destroyed, and it is stated that a hare escaped from the inundation by stationing itself upon the body of a drowned sheep as it floated down the stream. The

height to which the water rose in the lower parts of the town, has been commemorated by a notice at the corner of Water Lane. In December, 1790, there was another great flood when several bridges were destroyed, and Mr. Gilyard's dye house, on Sheepscar Beck, was washed away with a large quantity of cloth. Again on the 9th of February, 1795, there was a most destructive flood produced by a rapid thaw and a heavy rain, and incalculable mischief was done both by the torrent itself and the large blocks of ice which were hurried down the river. On this occasion Leeds Bridge was in considerable danger. A boat carried away from its fastenings, was forced on its broad side across one of the arches, and had it not been broken to pieces by the force of the ice and water, there is every reason to believe that the whole fabric would have been materially damaged if not destroyed. As it was, horses, carts, timber, and furniture, were carried away, and three men were drowned at Hunslet dam. Similar occurrences took place in 1799, 1806, 1807, 1816, and 1822. The most remarkable, although not the most destructive flood which has ever been known in the river Aire, was in 1824. On the night of September 2nd, in that year, the inhabitants on the banks of the river were astonished to perceive it swelled in a few moments to a very considerable height by a frightful accumulation of black water, which prevented the dyehouses and similar establishments from working, destroyed the fish in the river, and effected immense damage in its irresistible course. This strange inundation was produced by the sudden discharge of a vast quantity of peaty water from a bog on the summit of Crow Hill, about nine miles from Keighley, and six from Colne. An area of bog three quarters of a mile in circumference, sunk to the depth of from four to six yards, and the flood which was thus discharged rolled down the valley to Keighley with a terrible noise and violence. Stones of a vast size and weight were carried down by the stream more than a mile, cornfields were covered, and bridges were damaged, but happily no life was lost. A dreadful thunderstorm raged at the time when the water descended from the moor, and the inundation was no doubt caused by electric influence, or the agency of a waterspout, by which the accumulation of ages was liberated in a moment, and was precipitated into the valley below. In 1829, there was a yet more destructive flood in Leeds. At Black Hill near Addle, there was a large reservoir occupying an extent of from twenty

to twenty-five acres, and formed by the natural inequality of the ground and a large embarkment at the east end about fifteen feet high. This reservoir was situated at the head of the stream known nearer Leeds by the name of Sheepscar Beck. On the evening of July 11, the quantity of water in the reservoir had been materially increased by a heavy fall of rain during a thunder storm, and in the night the embankment gave way. The beck was in a moment increased to a mighty torrent; the fences, the walls, the bridges were carried away; the lands in the valley were covered; the mills by the bed of the stream were overwhelmed, and the goods they contained on their lower floors were either ruined or carried away; the houses and cottages exposed to the inundation were deluged, the contents were destroyed, and many a poor family lost all the. clothing and furniture they possessed in the world; in the neighbourhood of Timble Bridge, and East Street great confusion, was occasioned, and some of the inhabitants were in imminent danger of losing their lives, so that altogether this was by far the most calamitous flood that ever occurred in the neighbourhood of Leeds.

Among the miscellaneous institutions in the town of Leeds may be mentioned the Savings Bank, which was established on January 7th, 1818, pursuant to the resolutions of a public meeting. The beneficial character of this institution will be estimated by the fact, that in the course of twelve years after it commenced operation, six thousand six hundred and sixty-two accounts had been opened, and two hundred and seventy-four thousand two hundred and thirteen pounds had been paid into it, in twenty-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-nine deposits. Of this sum, more than one hundred and seventy-four thousand pounds had been repaid, to more than seventeen thousand four hundred demands, leaving in the bank upwards of one hundred and thirty-three thousand pounds belonging to three thousand two hundred and thirty-three depositors. The institution still continues to prosper, and it is hoped that it will long continue to receive the produce of laborious industry, and to furnish the foundation of comfort, respectability, and wealth for individuals and families who here deposit the surplus earnings of honourable toil. The Leeds and Yorkshire Assurance Company with a capital of one million, was incorporated in 1824. This institution is a public benefit, for previous to its establishment, large sums of money instead of being circu-

lated at home were paid away for policies of assurance to distant companies. The Annuitant Society for widows, established August 2nd, 1819, belongs to the department of Charities, and the Leeds Joint Stock Banking Company established 1832, to that of trade.

The institution of the Leeds or Haigh Park Races in 1824, was an unfortunate event for the town, cherishing a spirit of gambling, exercising an injurious influence upon public morals, and interrupting the employment and consequently diminishing the comfort of many who derive their daily bread from the produce of their hands. The race course, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, is situated about three miles south from the town on the new road to Pontefract, it is provided with a grand stand and the usual appendages of such a place, with accommodations for horses and their riders. At first these races were held in June, but in 1830, it was determined that for the future they should take place in August. The most extraordinary feats ever performed in the race ground were achieved by Captain Polhill, of the First Dragoon Guards, then stationed in Leeds Barracks. On November 9th, 1826, this officer, for a wager, rode ninety-five miles in four hours and seventeen minutes, and on the 17th of April following, the same officer on the same ground walked fifty miles, drove fifty miles, and rode fifty miles, in the short space of nineteen hours and five minutes, and was afterwards drawn by the populace to the barracks in his carriage.

We have already stated that the principles and feelings of the inhabitants of Leeds are diametrically opposed to the theatre, they are equally so to the turf. But few of the respectable inhabitants have ever countenanced the scenes at Haigh Park, the attendance at the races has long been declining, and it is hoped that the nuisance will soon be entirely abandoned.

In the history of all large towns it is often found that comparatively insignificant circumstances produce for the time a vast excitement of popular feeling. An amusing specimen of this description was furnished in Leeds in 1821. The salary of the Organist of the Parish Church was only fifty pounds, but when a vacancy occurred in the year we have mentioned, there was a vigorous contest for its acquisition. The office is in the patronage of the rate payers; there were three candidates, Messrs. Greenwood, Hopkinson, and Theaker; and for several days the whole town was kept in a state of bustle and confusion. Numerous

bodies of voters from the out-townships marched in procession with music and banners precisely as in the time of a county or borough election. No less than sixteen booths were erected for the convenience of polling, and from the agitation which prevailed, it might have been imagined that some affair of paramount importance was proceeding. More than two thousand six hundred persons polled for Mr. Greenwood, more than one thousand two hundred for Mr. Hopkinson, and two hundred and fifty nine for Mr. Theaker.

Having completed our municipal history of Leeds, we shall now very briefly refer to the villages in its immediate neighbourhood, which are not enumerated in the list of its out-townships.

KNOWSTHORP or Knostrop, is a small village situated about a mile and a half from the south eastern extremity of Leeds. Its name is derived from its situation, the Thorp, or town upon the Knoll of a hill. It is mentioned in a deed written about 1335, and from the names of the ancient proprietors still preserved in the lands, Knowsthorp appears to have been cultivated and inhabited so early as the reign of John. John Stable, the last of an ancient family who resided here, having embraced the tenets of the Quakers, appropriated part of his orchard to the purpose of a burial ground for the members of that denomination. This ground has long been disused for sepulchre, it contains, however, some grave stones with inscriptions now illegible, two of which upon the authority of Thoresby may be safely affirmed to have been placed above the mortal remains of two female members of the family of the Stables, who died in 1662 and 1692.* Knows-

* With the simplicity of one of these epitaphs, as they existed more than a hundred years ago, the reader will be much pleased :—

Hic ut antiquorum
mos fuit jacet Maria
Filia Johannis et
Mariæ Stable quæ
divino placito
ultimo die secundi
mensis secundi
ætatis Anni expiravit
1662,
Talium est
regnum Dei.

How different to the turgid bombast of some of those epitaphs which we shall soon have occasion to copy!

thorp is principally celebrated in the history of the district as having been the residence of Adam Baynes, the member of parliament for Leeds in the time of the Commonwealth. The remains of the old mansion of this family, afford no data upon which to calculate the era of its erection; it was probably however built in the early part of the sixteenth century. The estate continues in the family to the present day. Knowsthorp New Hall, the residence of Mr. Rhodes, is a commodious and elegant mansion. The land about the village is principally occupied by market gardeners.

Of Osmundthorp we have already given numerous particulars, and have stated its claim to be the Villa Regia of Bede. (See p. 32). It is briefly mentioned in Doomsday book—"Ossetorp, four carucates."* It is only remarkable for its importance in Saxon times. It was anciently the seat of the Osmunds, who probably moulded the original designation of the place to suit their own sirname; one of this family gave in 1376 a messuage and a half of land to the Chaplain of St. Mary's in Leeds; from thence the estate passed by marriage to the Skeltons, who retained possession of it for nearly four hundred years; and by the Skeltons it was sold to the Ibbetsons. The old hall of the Skeltons, built in the reign of Charles I. was demolished nineteen years since, so that every vestige of the former antiquity of the place has now disappeared.

Burmantofts a hundred years ago was a rural village, entirely separated from the town, and is mentioned by Thoresby† as being in 1711 the pleasant seat of William Nevile, Esq. High Sheriff of the county. Wonderful is the change; it is now absorbed in the town, its pleasantness has completely disappeared, and it is associated with Quarry Hill, one of the most insalubrious districts of the town, so called from a delf of stone which has long since been completely forgotten.‡

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 143. † Ducat. 103.

‡ Of the celebrated spring at Quarry-Hill, Thoresby says, "On each side Sheepscar Beck, which here runs under a stone bridge, called North Hall Brigg, is a remarkable spring, the Spaw-well, which Mr. William Smithson fenced with a stone wall and covered, and Lady-well. This Spadacrene Leodiensis, strikes as good a purple with nut-galls as Knaresbrough Spaw, and has the like effects, only 'tis too near and cheap to be valued as it ought. The same powder of galls does not at all effect the colour of the other spring the Lady-well." Ducat. I. 104.

Of Sheepscar nothing more can be said than that it derived its name from a pool most probably on the beck, which was used in ancient times for the washing of sheep. The beck is mentioned by old Harrison as "a nameless water running into the Aire on the North side of Leeds from Wettlewood" or Weetwood.* This useful stream rises a little above Addle, passes through some very romantic scenery at Meanwood, flows through a beautiful valley to Woodhouse Carr, and after receiving the discoloured wash of numerous dyehouses and manufactories, falls into the Aire near East-street.

Buslingthorp contains a considerable population: it divides the manor of Leeds from that of Potter-Newton, and is supposed to have derived its name from the Ox or Cow stalls, formerly called Booses or Buyses, with which the Ings or fields were formerly replenished.

The names of the populous villages of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Carr, sufficiently explain their own origin. At Woodhouse Carr there is a medicinal well, whose waters are esteemed useful to the bowels, and were formerly much used by the people in the neighbourhood. The village itself, though placed in a beautiful natural situation, is rendered unpleasant and dirty by its manufactories. Woodhouse Moor is the most healthy open space in the township of Leeds, it is the great summer walk of the inhabitants, it affords ample space for the exercising and reviewing of troops, and it is most devoutly to be wished that no future bill of enclosure will ever be introduced into the legislature, to prevent access to this pleasant scene of recreation and enjoyment. In the village of Woodhouse, on the left hand side of the road, is one of the most antique looking houses in this parish. The oldest part is one of the very few specimens which remain in this neighbourhood of the wood and plaister style of building, however interesting its appearance its history cannot be ascertained.

Little Woodhouse is rapidly losing its character as a beautiful village, although it is still one of the most pleasant and airy situations round Leeds. Dennison Hall, so called from its possessor, was formerly by far the most sumptuous residence in the parish, and its exterior is still the most imposing; it is now

* Holingshed's Chron. i. 95.

divided into two houses, its small park in front is the site of an unfinished square, of which the hall itself forms the northern side. Were Hanover Square, for so it is called, completed in a style corresponding with the buildings which have already been erected, it would be the greatest ornament of the town.

The first house at North Hall, or North Hall Wood as it was formerly called, was built here in the reign of Charles I. by Mr. George Banister, the first town clerk for the borough of Leeds; while his son, about the year 1691, built that house of public entertainment at Spring Gardens, which still retains its original name, and is appropriated to its original purpose.

Spring Gardens and North Hall were a short time ago completely in the country, and within twenty years, only a few houses in Park Lane could be seen between them and Park Square. The scene is now completely changed. Large dyehouses and immense manufactories line the northern side of the river; streets of cottages open from the great western road; a vast population pours forth at specific periods of the day to their avocations of industry and toil; and although the avenue to the town by the Wellington road is commodious, open, and airy, the other which conducts the traveller to St. Paul's Church and Park Square, is now one of the meanest, the most irregular, and the most unpleasant in the whole circumference of Leeds.

Near North Hall is the celebrated spring called St. Peter's Well; the waters are so intensely cold that they have long been considered very efficacious in rheumatic disorders. The Bene Ings near the Waterloo Bridge, part of which is occupied by the large manufactory of Messrs. Gott, are traditionally supposed to have derived their name from their ancient appropriation to religious purposes; Bene importing, *prayers;* though as Dr. Whitaker sarcastically remarks, "etymologists are extremely apt to overlook what is obvious, and it might be recollected that Beans are quite as likely to be cultivated, as prayers to be performed in Ings."* The meadow between the Bene Ings and Leeds, called the Monk Pits, received its name from its monastic proprietors. Near the line of the new road to the iron bridge across the Aire at the Monk Pits, is the Eye-bright well, once supposed to afford a sovereign remedy for soreness of the eyes;

* Ducat. 93, note.

the row of houses once called Eye-bright place, and looking over pleasant fields to the river, has now lost all its attractions, and forms part of Wellington Street.

POPULATION OF LEEDS.

	In 1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
East Division,	5,124	5,580	7,701	12,413
Middle and Kirkgate Division,	3.803	4,212	4,769	4,927
Mill Hill Division,	2,676	2,636	3,031	3,031
Upper and Lower North East Division,	8,547	6,354 4,425	9,194 6,518	14,402 9,619
North West Division, Lower and Upper,	4,059	5,910	3,804 4,877	9,797 7,602
South Division,	2,907	3,791	5,501	6,549
Upper Division,	3,554	3,243	3,208	3,262

Total in 1831, 71,602.

CHAPTER III.

THE PARISH OF LEEDS, CALVERLEY, AND GUISELEY.

SECTION I.—THE PARISH OF LEEDS.

HUNSLET.

HUNSLET is supposed to have derived its name from the dogs which in ancient times were kept here, either to defend the flocks of the farmers from the ravages of wild beasts, or for the purposes of the chase.* It is thus mentioned in Doomsday. "In Hunslet six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. The soke is in Bestone. There are eight villanes there having three ploughs, and six acres of meadow. Wood pasture five quarentens long, and four broad."† Since Hunslet is enumerated in Doomsday Book among the possessions of Ilbert de Lacy, the statement of Thoresby, which has been adopted by most of the topographers who have alluded to the village, that it was given by the Conqueror to Roger de Montgomery must be altogether unfounded.‡ After the Lacies Earls of Lincoln became extinct, Hunslet was held by different proprietors, and part of it was granted to religious houses until the reign of Henry IV. when Richard Gascoigne, brother to the celebrated judge, purchased a considerable estate in the township. Sir Thomas Nevile of Liversedge, in the reign of Edward IV. married the heiress of the Gascoignes, and thus obtained possession of the Hunslet estate. In this family the lordship continued until the 12th year of Elizabeth, when Sir John Nevile was accused of participating

* Hunde, a dog, and Slet, a house.

† Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 144.

‡ It is a curious fact that at the time of the conquest there were three villages in Shropshire called Hulebec, Hundeslet, and Ferneley. An extraordinary coincidence which caused the error of Thoresby.

in the rebellion of his relative the Earl of Westmoreland, his estate was consequently confiscated, and was given by the Queen to Sir Edward Carey. It was settled upon his second son Sir Philip Carey, who in conjunction with his son sold all the lands, mills, wastes, &c. to the inhabitants. The ancient and truly respectable family of the Fentons were at that time residents in Hunslet, and had been settled in the neighbourhood for some centuries, and they with the Baynes's and Cowpers were the principal parties in the purchase of the manor.

Of the Neviles Lords of Hunslet, a curious anecdote has been preserved. "vii. Aug. 1551, v. Edw. VI. the sweating sicknesse was so vehement in Liversage, that Sir John Nevile was departed from Liversage Hall to his house at Hunslet near Leedes for fear thereof, and it was so contagious that it quickly despatched such as were infected; for one William Rayner died the same day that he had been abroad with his hawke, &c."

Hunslet Hall was formerly a stately building surrounded with a considerable park, and presenting all the indications of aristocratical consequence and affluence. When Sir Philip Carey, however, broke up his estate at this place, the hall was abandoned to dilapidation and decay. Upwards of a hundred and twenty years ago, it again received considerable attention and extensive repairs, and was for some time the residence of Mr. Henry Sykes, an opulent and influential individual. Thoresby calls it a pleasant place. But it was soon again abandoned, and the residence of the Gascoignes and Neviles was rapidly rendered undistinguishable amidst a mass of meaner habitations.

The mill at Hunslet is frequently mentioned in the ancient records of the district, and appears to have existed as early as the thirteenth century. William Paganel, founder of the priory of Drax, gave to the prior of that house and his successors for ever, thirty sheaves of corn (probably annually) from his mill at Hunslet. The same mill is again mentioned as the property of the family of Altaripa (Dawtrey) who were also benefactors to the same religious house. It was afterwards the property of the Vavasours, and was given by them to the abbot and convent of Salley.

Although the dispersion of the estates of Sir John Nevile, into small parcels, was highly favourable both to the extension of the woollen manufacture and the increase of population at Hunslet, yet the number of inhabitants in the time of the com-

monwealth, was not so great as might be supposed. By the commission for ecclesiastical affairs in the north, it was there arranged that Hunslet was to constitute a district parish, (the chapel had been erected and endowed 1636,) and when its population was enumerated, it was found to consist of two hundred families, that is just half as many as Holbeck, at the same period. This township now contains as many inhabitants as many of the cities and cathedral towns of the kingdom, and it is superior to them in wealth and intrinsic importance. Besides the woollen manufacture, Hunslet contains extensive glass works, large chemical factories, considerable potteries, and establishments for wire working.

No place in the whole district has experienced such a total change in external appearance. "Under the Gascoignes and Neviles, the features of Hunslet were a great manor house and park, a slender and obsequious population, a feeble and unskilful husbandry, but quiet, cleanliness, and repose."* All these features have long since disappeared. Hunslet Lane still contains a number of good houses connected generally with extensive mercantile establishments, but the whole village, or rather suburb of Leeds, is irregularly, and frequently meanly built, consisting of narrow and dirty lanes, branching out from the great thoroughfare to Wakefield, and from the principal street passing by the chapel. The general aspect of the place is strangely uncouth, and perhaps a more dismal scene cannot be presented than the tract of mud and marsh called Hunslet Moor, on a rainy day. The inhabitants have, however, distinguished themselves by their public spirit, and an infinitely larger portion of intelligence and knowledge is to be found among them, and is in incessant and active exercise, than can be found among an equal number of individuals taken from any agricultural district in the kingdom.

The new iron bridge, or Union Bridge, over the river Aire, was commenced in 1829, when the first stone was laid by Mr. John Danby. As a communication between Hunslet and the great York Road, it is likely to be a great public convenience. The Hunslet rail road will be described in its proper place.

Hunslet Woodhouse, on an easy acclivity between Hunslet and Middleton, was formerly inhabited almost exclusively by the numerous family of the Fentons. It now belongs to the great

* Leeds and Elmete, 93.

coal mining tract, and exhibits the usual appearances and appendages of that remarkable region.

The most interesting relic of antiquity ever found in this vicinity was discovered in 1823. In excavating a new road in this township, the workmen turned up a stone coffin, containing some thigh, leg, and arm bones, under a covering of plaister, which, when removed, exhibited the cast of a human body, with the impression of the linen which had enveloped it. The face appeared to have been covered with a semicircular glass, which was partially decomposed; the skull had perished, but the teeth remained in excellent preservation. A considerable number of glass beads were found in the coffin, of various colours and sizes; but, though the coffin and its contents were carefully washed, no coin or inscription was found to fix the date of the interment. Mr. Blenkinsop took charge of the coffin, which appeared to be of the Bramley Fall stone, and was covered with a lid five inches thick.

POPULATION OF HUNSLET.

In 1801	1811	1821	1831
5799	6393	7701	12004

HOLBECK.

THIS village derived its name from its low situation, and the beck which flows through its centre,* and which says Harrison, "has two arms, of which the one cometh from Pudsey Chapel, the other from Adwalton, their confluence being made above Ferneslie Hall."† This beck or stream is the channel by which several of the vallies to the west and southwest discharge their waters into the river Aire. The main stream rises above Tong, and after a course of four miles, receives Pudsey beck, which comes from Bradford Moor; a mile further down, a little above Farnley, it receives another streamlet from Drighlington, and a mile nearer to Leeds, Beeston Beck, it then flows through the village in a deep channel, and conveys its discoloured waters to the Aire.

Holbeck is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, but was probably included in that survey with Woodhouse, under the general designation of Leeds. Very soon however after the compilation of Doomsday Book, when Ralph Paganel, A. D. 1089, gave the advowson of the church of Leeds to the priory of the Holy Trinity at York, the confirmation of the grant by pope Alexander, mentions both Holbeck and its chapel.‡ At the dissolution of the monasteries, it appears from the return to which we have so frequently alluded, that Holbeck paid only fifteen shillings in tithes. It was a place of considerable comparative importance and population at the time of the commonwealth, when it was formed into a district parish, and stated to contain four hundred families. The manor was anciently part of the lands and possessions of the priory of St. Trinity in York, it afterwards belonged to the Darcies, it was then the inheritance of the Ingrams, being purchased of king James I. by Sir Arthur Ingram, and it is now the property of the dowager marchioness of Hertford, as the representative and heiress of that ancient family. Ingram Hall, formerly the seat of the ancent possessors of the manor of

* Saxon Hol, a low place, and Beck.

† Harrison's Des. of Britain, ap. Hollingshead, 1, 95.

‡ Monastic. Anglic, 1. 564.

Holbeck, still remains. A few old stone houses of the age of the first Stuarts attest the antiquity of the place, although none of them merit particular description.

Holbeck was the seat of two ancient and highly respectable families—the Andertons, the name of whose estate is still preserved in Anderton's Rents—and the Neviles of whom some account must be given, because of the prominent part they have acted both in the county of York, and the vicinity of Leeds. Descended from Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland, prior to the Conquest, the Neviles have been connected by marriage with some of the most ancient and respectable families in Yorkshire. Sir John de Nevile was twice high Sheriff of the county in the reign of Henry VII. Another Sir John Nevile sustained the same dignified office in the reign of Henry VIII. Sir Robert Nevile was elevated to the same dignity in the thirty-second year of the same reign, and a third Sir John Nevile, in the third year of the reign of Elizabeth. Gervause Nevile of Beeston, was quarter master general to the duke of Newcastle, 1643, and consequently was a distinguished partaker in the principal transactions of the civil war in Yorkshire. William Nevile, of Holbeck, was High Sheriff for the county in 1710. Cavendish Nevile, the brother of William, was the last of the male line of this family. The name however was revived in the person of John Pate Lister, afterwards Nevile, the son of the female representative of the Neviles. In his favour, restrictions were introduced into the act passed in 1790, for the effectual supply of the town of Leeds with water. Two of his sons, officers in the third regiment of guards, died in the same year (1799) of their wounds received in the campaign in Holland; another of his sons, a lieutenant in the second regiment of foot, was killed on board Lord Howe's ship in the celebrated naval engagement of June 1, 1794; his eighth son, a lieutenant in the navy, was slain at Martinique, 1804; and his fourth son, a lieutenant in the guards, died at Badsworth, 1802. Thus five sons died in the service of their sovereign during the most dangerous and devastating war which ever was waged upon the surface of the globe—an instance of patriotic devotion to the cause of their country in one family, certainly not to be paralleled in this district, and seldom equalled in the history of the empire.

Wonderfully changed is the village of Holbeck within the last seventy, fifty, or even thirty years. It was formerly a plea-

sant village, possessed of no claims perhaps to rural seclusion, yet still surrounded with verdant fields and thriving poplar plantations, and enjoying an atmosphere uncontaminated and salubrious. Only one human habitation interrupted the continuity of the prospect between the village properly so called, and Leeds. But now the scene is completely reversed. Holbeck is one of the most crowded, one of the most filthy, one of the most unpleasant, and one of the most unhealthy villages in the county of York. Numerous lanes and streets swarming with a vast population now unite it to Leeds, the trees have been cut down, the meadows have disappeared, and the air is loaded with the black vapours which issue from its immense manufactories. "The smoke of it," said Dr. Whitaker, "ascendeth to heaven."

Holbeck is remarkable for its springs of sanative waters, which slightly impregnated with sulphur, are considered very salutary both as a beverage and for culinary purposes, and a considerable quantity of which is sold every day to the inhabitants of Leeds by a number of men who ply the streets with water carts for the purpose. The establishment here for warm and cold baths is commodiously arranged, well conducted, and extensively beneficial. There is some reason to believe that the medicinal well at this place was one of the many in this country anciently dedicated to St. Helena, and that a chapel was formerly attached to it.*

POPULATION OF HOLBECK.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
4196	5124	7151	11210

* This supposition is confirmed by the statement of Thoresby, who says, "Here was also another ancient fabric called St. Helens, of which some remains were standing in the memory of our fathers, but now is only known by the name of St. Helen's bridge, which leads to the old site of it." Ducat. 184.

BEESTON.

THE village of Beeston was no doubt one of the most delightful in the vicinity of Leeds, and one of the most desirable as a permanent residence, until the sinking of the numerous coal mines in its vicinity in a great measure destroyed its pleasantness, and effected a disagreeable change in the character of its inhabitants. It is mentioned in the following manner in the Doomsday Book. "In Bestone, Turstan and Morfar had six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be four ploughs. Ilbert now has it, and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time, forty shillings. Wood pasture, half a mile long, and half broad."* From this entry it appears that the manor of Beeston, like almost every other in its vicinity, was given after the Conquest to Ilbert de Lacy, and that it had been reduced to a state of unmitigated devastation by the atrocious barbarities of the inhuman Conqueror. Beeston was the seat of a very ancient, respectable, and munificent family—the Beestons of Beeston. One of this family Adam de Beeston was one of the witnesses to that charter which was
A.D. 1207. granted by Maurice Paganel to the Burgesses of Leeds, which we have already analysed in its proper place. Long after this we
Deed 1497. find Ralph Beeston holding the manor for the third part of a knight's fee, and presenting three acres of land in the place to the monks of Kirkstall Abbey. Adam Beeston had already bestowed upon the same ecclesiastics, four acres of meadow called Palizings. This family resided in an ancient hall which was in existence in the beginning of the last century, but the last relic of which, a Gothic arched gateway leading from the street into the village, was demolished about twenty-five years since. In the reign of James I. the last of this family known in this vicinity, commonly called Captain Beeston, sold the manor to Sir John Wood, a justice of the peace and treasurer for invalided soldiers in the West Riding of Yorkshire. From his family, it came into the possession of Mr. Nathaniel Bland, who resided at

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 144.

the hall about 1712. From him it was purchased by Thomas Kitchingman, Esq. whose son Thomas devised it to his four sisters.

It is conjectured from the coucher book of Nostel Priory, that there was formerly a hospital at Beeston, which is supposed to have stood at the foot of the hill, and on the south side of the brook which divides Beeston and Churwell. However well founded or otherwise this conjecture may be, it is certain that not a single trace of any such building now remains. During the time of the commonwealth, when a commission was granted for the purpose of surveying and dividing the great parishes in the north of England, Beeston was to have been constituted a new parish, and was stated to have had glebe land worth eighteen pounds per annum besides an augmentation, and to have had one hundred and fifty communicants.

Two circumstances formerly gave to Beeston some degree of celebrity. About the reign of Elizabeth, it was famous for the manufacture of bone lace, an article which continued in request until it was superseded by the superior manufactures of the continent. Towards the close of the seventeenth, and the commencement of the eighteenth century, it obtained a deserved reputation for its straw hats. The origin of this manufacture deserves mention to the honour of the inventor. In the reign of Charles I. a Mrs. Isabel Denton of Beeston was cursed with a prodigal husband, and saw a numerous family in danger of penury and starvation. This meritorious and ingenious woman to support her children by the produce of her honourable industry, invented straw hats and bonnets, for which she found a ready and profitable sale, and thus maintained her family in comfort and respectability until her death. Such was the demand for these articles of Beeston manufacture, that a widow in Leeds and her partner sold to the annual value of seven thousand pounds. Thoresby says upon this subject, "As Bone Lace, formerly the chief of the ornaments of the English nation, gave way to those from Flanders and Venice, so have straw hats to bonnets and shades made of wood-plat, imported from beyond sea though made up here. The chief art in the former was in making the hat bands, for which this town was and is so noted, that even those which were made in distant places were and are to this day supplied with them from Beeston."

The coal mines in the neighbourhood of Beeston have long been worked, and have yielded a profitable supply of that invaluable

mineral to the present day. A tragical event took place in the reign of Charles II. to which there are happily but few parallels in English history. During the time of the Protectorate, Mr. Leonard Scurr had discharged the ministerial functions in Beeston chapel with considerable ability, but without corresponding moral character. When Charles II. returned to his kingdom, Mr. Scurr abandoned the ministry and commenced the management of a coal mine for which he seems to have been well qualified, and which he conducted with considerable success. Preparatory to a journey to London on business, he had collected a large sum of money, and the fact became generally known in the neighbourhood. On the night antecedent to his departure from home (January 19, 1679) about eleven o'clock, two unhappy men whose names were Holroyd and Littlewood, accompanied by their accomplices, broke into the house with the intention of seizing the money and obviating detection by the murder of the family, then consisting of Mr. Scurr, his aged mother, and a servant girl. The outcry of the mother whom they first seized, woke Mr. Scurr then in bed, he immediately descended from his room armed with a rapier, and commenced a desperate contest with equal resolution and energy. He mortally wounded two of the robbers, and had not one of his hands been cut off with an axe, there is but little doubt that he would have mastered them all. Such was his indomitable valour, however, that he fought until his weapon became useless, and then he attempted to escape by a trap door. But the robbers had previously fastened it, and Mr. Scurr was at length murdered. His mother shared his fate, but the servant girl who implored mercy and promised secrecy would have been spared, had it not been for a wretched woman who was with the murderers, at whose instigation she was beheaded at the door. The ruffians then having taken the money and other valuables, set fire to the house in the hope of exciting the belief that it had been casually consumed with its inhabitants. But the murder was discovered by the facts that the head of the servant was found separated from her body, and the hand of Scurr at a distance from his mutilated body. Vengeance swiftly pursued the perpetrators of this horrid deed. Holroyd and a woman with whom he lived in shame repaired to Ireland, there they met with a female whose name was Phœbe, who had formerly been servant with Mr. Scurr, and to whom they had the folly to converse about the murder. This person identified a gown and a scarlet

petticoat, which Holroyd's companion then wore, as having been the property of Mrs. Scurr; she suspected the true state of the case, and applied to a magistrate; the murderers were apprehended and their gross prevarications were so condusive of their guilt, that they were sent over to York to take their trial. Littlewood was also taken into custody, and he and Holroyd were arraigned at the Lammas assizes at York in 1682. Littlewood was respited in the hope of making further confession, and the woman probably not having been actually engaged in the murder was never brought to trial. It was very properly determined to make a public example of Holroyd in the immediate neighbourhood of the place where the atrocious crime was committed, and he was accordingly executed on Holbeck Moor, in the presence of thirty thousand spectators. His body was hung in chains on the same spot. On his way through Leeds, the vicar, Mr. Milner, had some conversation with him, but he continued hardened and impenitent to the last.

An account of the chapel of Beeston will be found in the next book.

Of Cad Beeston, or Woody Beeston, anciently the seat of the Latimers, and in more recent times of the Milners of Beeston Park, Pit Hill,* and other Hamlets in this township, no important particulars can be given.

POPULATION OF BEESTON.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1427	1538	1670	2128

* The following ludicrous description of Pit Hill is extracted from the Ducatus: "Pit Hill of which there is nothing memorable but only cottages for some of the subterranean crew, except what is to be mentioned in the appendix, that the wife of one of them brought forth four children at one birth."

ARMLEY.

ARMLEY, or the field of Orm or Arm, indubitably a Danish chieftain, is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book: "In Ristone and Ermelai, Morfar and Archil had six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Ligulf now has it of Ilbert, and there are eight villanes there with three ploughs. Meadow six acres. Wood pasture half a mile long and four quarentens* broad. Value in King Edwards time twenty shillings now ten shillings."† Ristone, which is connected with Ermelai or Armley in this statement was most probably the place now called Armley Rig, Rigton or Rigston, the town on the Rig or Ridge of the hill. It will be seen that Armley, like Headingley, had been passed over by the general devastators of this part of the country in the reign of the Conqueror, but the reason of its exemption from the general calamity it is impossible even to conjecture. In the reign of Edward I. the Lacies Earls of Lincoln held Armley of the king in capite. In the same reign the family of the Everinghams had an estate here, and in Henry Vth's time a family of the Musgraves, whose name still continues in Bramley and Kirkstall. The principal family in Armley, however, for many centuries was that of the Hoptons, who were possessors of the manor, and whose residence was at Armley Hall, which says Thoresby "was sure a spacious place before the six and twenty rooms (which were taken down in the memory of some persons yet living) were demolished at one time to reduce it to a farmer's house." The Hoptons were a family of high reputation as well as of extensive possessions, and intermarried with some of the most eminent families in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The daughter and heiress of Sir Ingram Hopton married Sir Miles Stapleton of Wighill, and his daughter and heiress marrying Sir Thomas Manleverer, he became possessed in her right of the manor of Armley. Sir Thomas, however, sold it to Margaret relict of Sir

* A quarenten was a quantity of ground signifying 40 perches.

† Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 143.

William Ingleby of Ripley, in whose family it remained until 1781, when the trustees of Sir John Ingleby, Bart. deceased, sold it to Mr. Thomas Woolrich, merchant, of Leeds. The manorial rights are now possessed by Benjamin Gott, Esq. The munificence of this gentleman to the inhabitants of Armley, which ranks him among the most liberal benefactors in the district, will be described in our history of charities.

More than a hundred years ago, Armley was noted for its corn and fulling mills. Some of these mills must have been in existence full two centuries since, because they were the property of Samuel Casson, Esq. second mayor of Leeds, under the charter of Charles I. The village and its neighbourhood contain some important manufacturing establishments at this day. Armley Mills belonging to Messrs. Gott demand particular observation not only on account of their magnitude, but on account of their picturesque situation, beneath an almost precipitous hill, on whose declivity the Leeds and Liverpool Canal has been carrried with stupendous labour, and covered on the south side by impending woods. Even Dr. Whitaker in contemplating this place overlooked his prejudices against manufactories. He says, "it is not unpleasing to observe that this vast excavation (the canal) which for several years presented to the eye the appearance of a long extended quarry through the township of Armley, by being judiciously planted as soon as its decompounding materials became capable of vegetation, is now fringed with thriving trees of various kinds, and has nearly lost every appearance of its original deformity."

Armley House is the representative of a very ancient building every trace of which has long since disappeared, although centuries ago it originated the appellation of the place where it stood.* The late house was built by Thomas Woolrich, Esq. and was an elegant though not an extensive edifice. The house built by Benjamin Gott, Esq. is one of the best in the district, and forms one of the most conspicuous and commanding objects in the vicinity. The park is small but beautifully planted, the wood on the north side of the house slopes rapidly down to the canal, the rest of the grounds are intersected with delightfully shaded walks, the new approach to the house by an iron bridge built over the Aire permits a full view of the fine situation and environs of the mansion, and the whole is equally creditable to the skill of the architect and the taste and munificence of the proprietor.

* Rig Cote—the house on the ridge.

We have already spoken of the remains of the Danish fortification on Giant's Hill at Armley.* Its ecclesiastical history will be found in the following book.

Wither, the Wyther, or Withergrange, is a pleasant hamlet on the borders of the townships of Armley and Bramley. It was anciently the seat of several gentlemen's families, and contains a very large mansion, built in connection with an old house in the middle of the last century, now the residence of B. Holroyd, Esq. At the back of this house is a ravine formed by the bed of a small torrent overhung with gigantic trees, which affords one of the most delightful, romantic, and secluded scenes in this district.†

POPULATION OF ARMLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
2695	2941	4973	5159

* See p. 30.

† Concerning the Danish chieftain who has given his name to Armley, we make the following extract from the Ducatus. "That there was a person of eminency in this part of the country among the Danes called Arm or Orm is evident from several places that do yet bear his name as Armthorp, Armin, &c. Thus Arm is synonymous with Orm, an ancient family, both among the Danes and Northern English amongst whom was one Orm, whose Dano-Saxon manuscript is yet extant and called from him Ormulum. There was also another of the name a noted person in these parts of Yorkshire in Henry I.'s time and I have also seen a release dated Anno 1322, from John son of William Orm concerning an estate in this parish. In this neighbourhood are other monuments of the Danish times as particularly Tingley or more truly Tinglaw or Low, which imports a Danish court of judicature, in the language of that age, called Tinge, as a most excellent guide instructs us." Ducat 105.

WORTLEY.

THE village of Wortley is included in the chapelry of Armley. The name is supposed to have been derived from its herbage. It is mentioned in a MS return in the Augmentation office, in the 30th Henry VIII. as paying one pound thirteen shillings and fourpence as its quota of tythes. In this document the name is is spelt Wyrteley. In the Commonwealth, when the commission to which we have before alluded was granted for surveying and subdividing the great parishes in the north of England, Farnely, Armley, Bramley, and Wortley, were to have formed a distinct parish. The arrangements contemplated by the commissioners were however never carried into permanent effect, and Wortley remained without an episcopal chapel until 1813, when the present edifice, of which further particulars will shortly be given, was consecrated by the Archbishop of York. This village has been distinguished by a vein of fine clay of which Tobacco pipes were manufactured more than a century ago, and which is still in demand by the potteries in the neighbourhood for the coarser kinds of earthenware. The ancient family of the Farrars of Ewood, near Halifax were formerly possessors of the manor, in 1766, it was sold by James Farrar, Esq. to John Smyth, Esq. of Holbeck, and it is now the property of his son John Smyth, Esq. of Bramham. The inhabitants are principally clothiers.

POPULATION OF WORTLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1995	2336	3179	5944

FARNELEY.

FARNELEY, like Wortley, obtained its name from its peculiar vegetation, ferne growing in great abundance over its wastes before it was brought into a state of cultivation. In the return in the Augmentation Office just mentioned, two Farneleys are mentioned, but the cause of the distinction cannot be ascertained, and a similar entry cannot be discovered in any other document. This place is not recorded in Doomsday Book, but it must at a very early period have been distinguished by the residence of an eminent family, since Juliana de Lungvilliers, lady of Farneley, was one of the benefactors of Kirkstall Abbey soon after its foundation. It is again mentioned in the reign of Edward I., and from that period the series of the possessors of the manor has been preserved with tolerable accuracy. It would be of little use to the reader to detail the manner in which this lordship passed from the Neviles to the Harringtons, from the Harringtons to the Langtons, and from the Langtons to the Danbys. Suffice it to observe, that the last family became seized of the manor about the commencement of the sixteenth century, that it furnished the first mayor of Leeds after the charter of Charles II. was granted, and that Farneley continued to be the place of its residence until the middle of the last century. The manor was sold by William Danby, Esq. of Swinton, near Masham, to Mr. James Armitage, a merchant of Leeds, with whose descendants it yet remains.

Farneley Hall was built in the reign of Elizabeth by Sir Thomas Danby, and was a "stately fabric, of its architecture and age. Upon the front was this inscription: "Builded in the year of our Lord 1586, and in the reign of the Queen 28, by Sir Thomas Danby, Knight." It was pulled down in 1756, the materials were sold, and a very inferior mansion was erected on its site. It is not known when the ancient park was destroyed. Farneley may be regarded as the last place in the parish of Leeds which continued to be the abode of aristocracy, and Dr. Whitaker says, "It is owing unquestionably to the aristocratical genius of

the place, that in the neighbourhood of a population rapidly increasing, where every rood of land when leased was sure of a tenant, little less than four hundred acres of native wood, such as in Doomsday is described as Silva Pascua, should have been permitted to remain to the present day." Of Farneley Wood Plot we have already given the history.

Farneley is delightfully situated on the summit of a considerable elevation, gradually sloping towards the east, and looking down into a beautiful valley on the north. The spirit of speculation a few years ago induced the introduction of some new roads into this valley in the direction of Wortley and Pudsey, only one of these roads, viz. that from the Bramley road in the valley to Farneley, has yet been finished, and the immense mound upon which it is formed is a striking monument of human industry. A considerable quantity of inferior coal is procured in this village, and the stone is well adapted for the common buildings in the vicinity.

POPULATION OF FARNELEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
943	1164	1332	1591

* Loid. and Elm. 106.

HEADINGLEY.

THE name of this pleasant and rural village is of Danish derivation. The first syllable refers to a person, perhaps Hedde or Hœdda, stated to have been the first Danish king who divided
A. D. 876. this part of England among his followers, and who after swaying his sceptre over his new dominions thirty-five years, was killed in
A. D. 911. the reign of Edward the Elder. The second syllable is a patronymic added by the son to his father's name according to the custom of the people and the age; and the third it is well known is significant of field. The field of the son of Hedde or Hœdda, will therefore be the meaning of the name.

The principal object in the village of Headingley is the venerable oak which has defied the storms of a thousand winters, and which for hundreds of years has presented to the observer a decaying memorial of ages long since passed away. This remarkable tree has been conjectured by some, and the supposition is warranted by its evidently extreme antiquity, to have witnessed the horrible religious rites of the ancient Britons, and in fact to have formed a part of a Druidical grove. Universal tradition declares this to have been the tree under which, in Saxon times, the shire meetings were held, and from which the name of Skyrack, (shire oak) has been imposed upon the wapentake. Of course these traditions afford no positive demonstration, but in spite of scepticism they render the supposition extremely probable, and induce the conclusion that it must be founded on fact.

Headingley is noticed in Doomsday Book in the following terms: "In Hedingleia seven carucates of land to be taxed. Land to three ploughs and a half. Two thanes held it for two manors. There are there two villanes with one plough. It has been valued at forty shillings, now four pounds."* From this entry it appears that Headingley in the time of the Conqueror, presented a rare example of prosperity amidst the surrounding

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 127.

horrors of devastation and wretchedness, and that in fact its value had been doubled by the improvements of its thanes, and the diligence of its husbandmen. This is the more extraordinary, since as we shall see in the case of Chapel Allerton, the general desolation was evident in the east, so in the case of Bramley it extended to the west.

Soon after this record Headingley seems to have been granted by the Lacies, as chief Lords, to a family with the surname of Paytefen or Poitevin, who held it in part until the reign of Edward II. As may be supposed, Headingley with Chapeltown became gradually included in the vast possessions of Kirkstall Abbey. Of that Abbey, which stands in this township, and of its other ecclesiastical edifices, descriptive and historical accounts will be given in the next book. The site and demesnes of Kirkstall Abbey after the dissolution were granted to the celebrated archbishop Cranmer, and by him were settled on his younger son. In the reign of James I. they were purchased by Sir John Savile of Howley, from whose family they passed by marriage to the Brudenels Earls of Cardigan. Nearly seventy years ago, a part of these estates were granted on a long lease to the Rev. John Moore, minister of Headingley, through whose daughter they passed to the late Sir James Graham, and are now possessed by Sir Sandford Graham, Bart.

In no village in the parish are the effects of the prosperity and opulence of Leeds more visible than in Headingley, Chapeltown only excepted. Numerous mansions and elegant villas have been built by those whose commercial enterprise or manufacturing industry have elevated their families to opulence. New Grange* built about eighty-one years ago by Walter Wade, Esq. and now A. D. 1752. the residence of Thomas Benyon, Esq. placed in a situation which commands a vast and variegated prospect, surrounded with an extensive park and sheltered with luxuriant woods, is one of the most distinguished mansions, and one of the most prominent objects in the district. And it is impossible not to contemplate with pleasure the results of successful application to the pursuits of trade in the cheerful, the comfortable, and elegant dwellings,

* The old house was built by Benj. Wade, Esq. in 1626, and had this inscription upon the front: "Except the Lord build the house, thy labour is vain that keeps it; it is the Lord that keeps thee going out and in. B. W. 1626." The family of the Wades were so distinguished by their loyalty, that they sold land of £500 a year for the service of Charles I.

adorned with pleasure grounds and plantations, with which this vicinity abounds.

A considerable part of Headingley Moor, formerly very extensive, was inclosed about sixty-seven years since, and a good house was erected for the officiating clergyman of the parish.

Of Burley, which with Headingley forms one township, nothing more can be said than that it derives its name from its situation on a hill, and that like Headingley it contains many beautiful villas and pleasant residences.

The village of Kirkstall has deplorably declined from its former striking beauty and rural seclusion. Its population has now become entirely manufacturing, and has immensely increased during the last fifteen years, and its atmosphere is loaded with the smoke and effluvium proceeding from its numerous mills. Very different were the "Mills for grinding corn and the fulling mill," which have existed here from time immemorial, and the vast manufactories which furnish employment to the numerous inhabitants of the place. The Abbey Mills here, belonging to Willans and Son, constitutes an immense and a well conducted establishment for the manufacture of cloth. On the eighth of December, 1827, they were nearly destroyed by a tremendous fire, but they have since been rebuilt, and form in every point of view the most important object in modern Kirkstall. Without interfering with our account of the Abbey, we may observe that the new road which has lately been made from this place to Yeadon, though it has materially subserved the convenience and added to the comfort of the neighbourhood, has completely ruined the beauty of the grounds about the abbey. There is every reason to believe that in the process of time, Kirkstall will become the most populous and important village in the parish of Leeds. It contains one house which pre-eminently deserves observation, and which was evidently the great gateway into the grounds of the abbey from the north; the principal apartment in this house, which occupies part of what was formerly the porch, has a very antique appearance; and the whole building is preserved in admirable consistency by its present occupier. The new church at Kirkstall is one of the most beautiful buildings and one of the most pleasing objects in the district."*

* Kirkstall, like other places in its vicinity, has furnished examples of modern credulity disgraceful to the age. In 1806 a fellow of the name of George Hey, called the Kirkstall prognosticator, solemnly advertised that he

About a mile from the village to the west, amidst luxuriant woods, and in perhaps the most beautiful part of the valley of the Aire, is Kirkstall forge, emitting its volumes of smoke by day, and its pillars of flame by night, arousing the echoes of the neighbourhood by the incessant din of its hammers, and presenting an object of blackness and deformity, notwithstanding its utility, strangely incongruous with the lovely scenery by which it is surrounded. This forge is of considerable antiquity. Even in Thoresby's time, it was so extensive that he declares, "it might serve Vulcan himself and his Cyclops to work in." The same writer also tells us that in this place there was a mill erected, "for slitting iron into small bars or rods by which means there is a considerable manufacture of nails in these parts." The manufactures of this forge continue to obtain an extensive demand, and to be held in the highest request under the superintendence of its very estimable and respectable present occupiers.

POPULATION OF HEADINGLEY WITH BURLEY AND KIRKSTALL.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1313	1670	2154	3849

was commissioned to announce that on Wednesday the world was to be burnt up. He produced vast alarm among the fools in the neighbourhood by his prophecy.

BRAMLEY.

THE name of Bramley is no doubt derived from its first possessor, most probably in Saxon times, and is literally the field of Bram. It is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book: "In Bramelsia, Archil had four carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be two ploughs there. Ilbert now has it and it is waste. Wood pasture half a mile long and half broad. Value in King Edward's time forty shillings." It will be seen by this description that the township of Bramley had been cursed with the presence of the Norman destroyers, and that fire and sword had reduced it to desolation. It seems to have been granted by the Lacies to the Abbey of Kirkstall, and to have remained in the possession of that monastic house to the dissolution. In the reign of Edward VI. when Bramley with other domains of the Abbey were granted to archbishop Cranmer, the land in this township was in a state of high cultivation. This is evident from the fact that several of its fields are expressly mentioned in the royal letters patent to the archbishop — such as Long holme, east and west, Styefelde, Abbeyfelde, Dodeyng, Sheep close, &c. The manor of Bramley in the reign of James I. was acquired by the Saviles of Howley, from whence it came to the Brudenels, Earls of Cardigan, who are its present Lords.

One of the most extraordinary instances of superstition and credulity which modern times has witnessed, has been afforded in this village. A wretched woman, a native of Thirsk, but residing in Leeds, had for some years rendered herself infamous by her artifices and extortions as the Yorkshire witch. Mary Bateman, for this was the name of the impostor and murderess, aroused the attention and excited the alarm of foolish persons in 1806, by exhibiting an egg upon which she had inscribed, "Christ is coming," and which she declared was a preternatural prodigy. She first extorted the property of her victims, and then poisoned them. In 1806, William Perigo, a small clothier at Bramley, went to consult her upon the case of his wife, who

was supposed to labour under the indefinable calamity of "an evil wish." The sorceress gladly interposed; pretending to be directed by the agency of an imaginary personage, denominated Miss Blythe, she retained Perigo and his wife under her diabolical influence for nine months, and succeeded by alternately exciting their fears and their hopes, of cheating them out of seventy pounds in money, out of all their furniture and wearing apparel, and in fact out of all the property they had in the world. When the infatuated dupes found themselves reduced to beggary, without the fulfilment of any of the splendid promises by which the hag had kept them in her toils, they became importunate and clamourous, and Mary Bateman, to rid herself from their now unprofitable applications, and to escape from impending detection, determined to destroy them by administering poison. She gave them some murderous drug, which as a charm they were to mix in their food; both Perigo and his wife partook of honey and pudding which they had prepared with the poison; the female soon afterwards died, and the constitution of her husband was ruined. It was not until after the death of his wife, that Perigo broke the fatal spell, he applied to the magistrates of Leeds, the witch was apprehended, tried, executed, and her body was given for dissection to the surgeons.—An example of infatuation and ignorance which the annals of the kingdom cannot parallel.

The village of Stanningley is usually accounted within the limits of the township of Bramley, though part of it is in the township of Farsley. There can be little doubt that it derived its name from the stony character of the neighbourhood, the fences of the roads and of the fields, and the walls of the houses being all constructed of stone. The inhabitants of Stanningley, like those of Bramley, are almost exclusively supported by the woollen manufacture, they have been generally accounted the rudest and most unpolished in the district, and their houses and their persons by no means exhibit any very remarkable attention to cleanliness. This village has occasionally witnessed explosions of popular violence upon manufacturing and political grounds, and it has sometimes been found necessary to call in the aid of the military to repress the tumultuous dispositions of the inhabitants. A pleasing change however is now in progress, the besotted ignorance of the people is rapidly disappearing, knowledge is now extensively diffused, and the influence of Sunday Schools, and of the administration of religious ordinances has

produced the happiest results. Situated on the high road between Leeds and Bradford, Stanningley is a busy thorough fare, and several large manufacturing establishments furnish employment and support to a considerable number of families.

POPULATION OF BRAMLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
2562	3484	4921	7039

In taking our leave of these manufacturing villages in the parish of Leeds, we must offer a single observation upon the character and manners of their population. It is generally stated that the inhabitants of these busy scenes of industry are rude to fierceness in their department, and that they are lost in ignorance upon every topic which is not involved in their manual occupation. This is only very partially correct. In these villages there are many truly respectable individuals and families, whose manners, without partaking of the affected refinement far too common in our large towns, are highly agreeable, whose information is as extensive as reading and thought can make it, whose rural principle attaches a sterling weight to their character, and whose spirit of charity, benevolence, and patriotism attaches honour to their names. Of rudeness and ignorance there is indeed enough, but these hateful attributes are neither so common nor so obtrusive as they were a few years ago.

CHAPEL ALLERTON.

THE name of this village, by far the most beautiful and respectable in the parish of Leeds, has exercised the ingenuity of Thoresby, who asserts that Allerton, a designation imposed upon four adjoining hamlets, is synonymous with Saxon words, signifying the Alder Hills. It appears almost certain that this eminent topographer was right. *

Allerton is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book. "In Alreton Glenner had six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Ilbert now has it and it is waste. Value in king Edward's time, forty shillings. Wood pasture one mile long and half broad." † It thus appears that this vicinity was included in the terrible devastations of William the Conqueror, and that at the time of the survey it was depopulated and waste. In less than a century after this survey, it was divided by the Lacies among several subordinate grantees, one line of which assumed the surname of Allerton. The diligence of Dr. Whitaker, ‡ has communicated the knowledge of a number of charters belonging to Kirkstall Abbey, found during the last century in an old house in Chapeltown, together with a number of original grants of small properties to the same house, many of them of the highest antiquity, all beautifully written, and preserved with such exemplary care that many of the seals remain entire. From these charters and grants, it appears that from the time of Samson de Alreton, contemporary with the foundation of Kirkstall Abbey, the land in this township was gradually absorbed in the immense possessions of that opulent religious house. After the dissolution, the lordship of Chapel Allerton remained with the crown, until in 1601, it was granted by deed to Thomas Killingbeck, Thomas Marshall, John Thwait, and John Hadder, for the sum of £258. 10s. 11½d. Allerton Hall, was long the seat of the Kitchingman family, and was the

Feb. 26.

* Ducat. 123. † Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 128.

‡ Loid. and Elm. 125.

largest and most ancient mansion in its vicinity. It was sold by James Kitchingman, in 1755, to Josiah Oates, Esq. of Leeds, who demolished the old house and built the present mansion on its site. The place is now the property of W. W. Brown, Esq. A ridiculous custom prevailed among the Kitchingmans of interring the corpses of their deceased relatives by torch light. When Mr. Robert Kitchingman died in 1716, no less than one hundred torches were carried at his interment at Chapel Allerton, and other customs were observed, of which the only laudable one was the donation of fifty pounds to the poor. The good sense and true feeling of the people have long since abolished such monstrous and disgusting mummeries as these. A house called Sunderland Hall, late in the occupation of Mr. Farmery, once chief constable, and now town's husband of Leeds, deserves observation in this place. It is the remnant of a house formerly occupied by a family who bestowed upon it its name, and whose property was sold in allotments about forty-five years since.

Chapel Town Moor was, until the commencement of the present century, one of the most beautiful promenades in the neighbourhood of Leeds. It was the place where feats of agility and pedestrian performances were frequently exhibited, and where in the time of war large bodies of the military were exercised and reviewed. On one occasion (June 27, 1795,) when the Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, and Wakefield Volunteers were reviewed at this place by General Cameron, sixty thousand spectators were present and three hundred carriages appeared on the ground. The wise system of inclosing productive land and rendering it conducive to the support of an immensely increasing population, rendered it necessary that this plot of ground, containing more than three hundred acres, should be applied to other purposes, and Chapel Town Moor has long since disappeared.

Allerton Gledhow, in this township, demands for a moment the attention of the reader. The word Gledhow, is either derived from the Saxon words signifying the Hill of Burning Coals, or more probably from two words meaning the Hill of of the Kite.* The name Gledhow first occurs in one of the charters to which we have just alluded, dated in 1359. Allerton Gledhow, like Chapel Allerton, was the property of Kirkstall

* Ducat. 129. Loid. and Elmete 131.

Abbey. That an ancient house formerly existed at this place is indubitable, about the year 1680 it was inhabited by a family of the name of Waddington. Mr. Hugh Sleigh greatly improved the old house; his heiress married Henry Pawson, Esq. whose only daughter married William Wilson, Esq. Alderman of Leeds. Mr. Wilson dying in 1764, leaving only one daughter, his widow, by virtue of an act of parliament, sold the estate to Jeremiah Dixon, Esq. Mr. Dixon increased his estate by the purchase of the manor or Lordship of Chapel Allerton, and of the estate of Lady Dawes and her son. He also made considerable additions to the house, and adorned its vicinity with extensive plantations. The mansion, which is certainly one of the most beautiful residences in the neighbourhood of Leeds, is now tenanted by Lady Beckett, the relict of the late Sir John Beckett, Bart.

Of Moor Allerton little information can be given which will interest the reader; it no doubt derived its name from its vicinity to the Moors—Blackmoor in its immediate neighbourhood deriving its name from the colour of its peat, and the hue assumed by its crags after exposure to the atmosphere. These crags furnished the stone of which Trinity Church in Leeds was built, and which was given for that purpose by Mr. Killingbeck, of Hooton Pagnel, a Roman Catholic. Blackmoor like Chapeltown moor, has disappeared, and its former aspect of irreclaimable sterility has been exchanged for the cheerful luxuriance of corn fields and meadows. Beeston is not the only place in this parish which has been distinguished in the annals of crime. In 1680 a monster, John Grice, who from the appellation of esquire appears to have moved in respectable society, murdered his pregnant wife and two children with circumstances of savage barbarity which will not admit of description, and for this atrocious crime is said to have been smothered at York.

POPULATION OF CHAPEL ALLERTON.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1054	1362	1678	1934

GIPTON.

At Gipton we have already stated that there was formerly a Saxon encampment whose traces are now totally obliterated. From this circumstance it has been supposed that the name originated (Cip a tent, and Tun an inclosure). This derivation does

not seem likely. Gip, says Dr. Whitaker, was most probably the monosyllabic name of the Saxon who first fixed his habitation on the site. The name of the place repeatedly occurs in documents of the reigns of Edward I., Edward II., and Edward III. At this place, says Thoresby, "is a very curious cold spring, which in a Romish country could not have missed the patronage of some saint. 'Tis of late years accommodated with convenient lodgings to sweat the patient after bathing, and is frequented by persons of honour, being reputed little or nothing inferior to St. Monagh's. Over the entrance is inscribed

Hoc fecit
Edwardus Waddington,
De Gleadhow,
Anno Domini, 1681." *

The waters of Gipton have lost their celebrity and are no longer frequented. There is no reason why they should not be restored to fame. If some chemist were to report an analysis of their component parts, if some physician were to publish a book in their praise, and if some speculator were to build a decorated bath, a large hotel, or perhaps a crescent of houses with a sounding name, it is certain that quite as much benefit would be reaped from Gipton well, as from many of the springs which are highly extolled for their salutiferous qualities, and around which complaining valetudinarians and idle loungers so numerously congregate.

* Loid and Elm. 133. Ducat 112.

POTTER NEWTON.

We have already referred to the conjecture of a zealous, learned, and indefatigable antiquary, that there was formerly a Roman pottery at this place. A hundred and thirty years ago, there were evident remains of the Metæ, i.e. circular heaps of rubbish whose materials decisively indicated their origin, and other mounds which appear to be the ruins of the furnaces. It is probable also that at this place there was an extensive manufactory of these Roman bricks which are to be seen in considerable numbers among the ruins of Kirkstall Abbey. From this circumstance it is supposed that the former part of the name is derived. It has been observed by antiquaries that the apellations Newton and Newington have been given to several towns in the neighbourhood of Roman stations, and which have evidently obtained their names by contrast with the old towns, where the first conquerors and possessors of Britain resided prior to their departure from the island.

Potter Newton is certainly a place of very considerable antiquity. In a charter very little posterior to the foundation of Kirkstall Abbey, William the son of Richard de Newton gave "to God, to the holy Virgin, and to the monks" of that religious house three acres of his land. And at another grant nearly contemporary with this, Juliana de Lungvilliers Lady of Farnely bestowed upon the same abbey a plot of her cultivated ground in the same place. In both these grants mention is made of a distinctive place in Potternewton called Linborch or Limberch. After considerable inquiry the writer has been unable to discover any trace of the name, and he is obliged to content himself with the meagre conjectures of antecedent inquirers, who imagine it to have referred to some ancient fortification.

Potter Newton was formerly famous for three ancient houses, the seats of as many distinguished families. Scot Hall was the residence of the Scots, who derived their name not from the Saxon word which signifies darts or arrows, but from the country from which the first of their name, steward to the Empress Maude,

mother of Henry II. migrated to England. The names of these Scots are frequently met with as witnesses to various deeds from the reign of Edward III. to that of Henry VIII. The last of this family known to have lived at Newton or Potter Newton, was Gilbert Scot, who died in the thirty-third year of Henry VIII. (consequently in 1542), and who at the time of his decease was possessed of the manor of Newton, of one hundred and twenty acres of land, twenty-six of meadow, forty-eight of pasture, thirty of wood, a water mill, two hundred acres of moor, &c. These estates seem ultimately to have merged in the Calverleys of Calverley, from whom they diverged into various hands.

Another old Hall formerly existed at Potter Newton which was the residence of one branch of the ancient family of the Mauliverers, but which has fallen a prey to the ravages of time. To trace the subsequent possessors of an edifice which has long since passed away, would be of no possible advantage to the reader.

"Newton Hall," says Thoresby, "is a venerable old fabric, and stands low and shady." This house, was successively the residence of several distinguished families until it came, in the first year of the sixteenth century, with an estate of three hundred pounds a year (a large income in those days) to the Hardwicks, one of whom, in the reign of Edward VI. purchased the manor.* From the Hardwicks the estate passed by marriage to the Claverings, and from them, in the same manner, to the first Earl Cowper, whose heirs and representatives own considerable property in the vicinity.

The manor of Potter Newton has long been possessed by the Saviles of Methley, by whom it is still retained. The most remarkable house in this neighbourhood at present is Low Hall, the residence of George Wailes, Esq. a heavy brick building of the age of Charles II. yet of imposing appearance, commanding an extensive prospect to the south, and with a fine avenue of trees from the northern entrance to the road.

POPULATION OF POTTER NEWTON.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
509	571	664	863

* The will of Thomas Hardwick, who made this purchase, is remarkable, as containing a proof of protestantism in the midst of popery. He died in the reign of Mary, and commended his soul to Almighty God, his Creator and Redeemer, hoping, through Jesus Christ, to be saved, without referring to the saints, according to the senseless fashion of the times.

SECTION II.

THE PARISH OF CALVERLEY.

No certain information can be afforded of the derivation of the name of this village and parish. It has been conjectured with some probability that Calfere was the first Saxon possessor of the place, and that from him it has received its designation. If this be correct, then Calverley originally signified the field of Calfere. It is thus described in Doomsday Book. "In Calverleia and Ferselleia, Archil had three carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be two ploughs there. Ilbert has it and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings. Wood pasture, half a mile long, and half broad."* From this description the reader will perceive that like the great majority of the manors and townships in this district, Calverley had been reduced soon after the era of the Conquest to total depopulation and misery.

There is every reason to believe that the Lacies granted Calverley and Pudsey to Alphonsus the son of Gospatric. Landarina, one of the three daughters of this mesne lord of the place, married John Scoticus or the Scot, to whom we have alluded in our account of Potter Newton, and who was so called because he came from Scotland with the Empress Maude, in the capacity we have just stated to the reader. He was the founder of the family which so long flourished at this place, and which bore the name of Scot, alias Calverley, until the close of the fifteenth century, when the first designation was finally merged in the second. Instead of giving a tedious, dull, and useless

* It has also been supposed that the village was so called by the elision of a consonant very common in local names before the first letter of the last syllable *l* from Calfherd, which afterwards itself became a family name in Calvert, the field of Calfherds. Loid. and Elm. p. 216.

† Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 144.

account of the successive principals of this ancient family, and their marriages and connexions, we shall confine ourselves to those particulars in its history which involve something like interest and importance. Thomas Wilson who has made such extensive manuscript collections relative to the history of this district, informs us, that John Scot or Calverley who lived in the fourteenth century "was beheaded for committing crimes so horrible that they were not fit to be described—so much so, that Wilson recommended to the possessor of the manuscript in which they were enumerated to destroy the scandalous and detestable record. Sir John Calverley, the grand nephew of the above named culprit, was slain at Shrewsbury, valiantly fighting for King Henry IV. against Hotspur and Glendower. The Calverleys must gradually have accumulated considerable landed property, for William Calverley, Esq. who lived in the reigns of Edward VI. Mary, and Elizabeth, was seized of the manors of Calverley, Pudsey, Burley in Wharfdale, and of lands in Bagley, Farsley, Eccleshall, Eccleshall Park, Bolton in Bradfordale, and Seacroft. This gentleman had married a lady who was a zealous Roman Catholic, and who had such influence in retaining her husband in the bonds of the old superstition, that he suffered very considerably in his estate in consequence of the fines which were imposed according to the intolerant practice of the times to punish his recusancy.

His son Walter Calverley was the perpetrator of a crime which formed the subject of tragic representation* two hundred years ago, and which still excites the liveliest emotions in the inhabitants of the place when induced to communicate its history in the neighbourhood of its scene. In order to understand the subsequent narrative, it must be stated before we proceed, that Walter Calverley had married about the year 1601 Philippa the the daughter of Sir John Brooke, by whom he had three sons William, Walter, and Henry.

Prior to his marriage with this lady, he had formed an engagement with another, the daughter of "an ancient gentleman of chief note in his country;" but when he arrived in London, and saw his subsequent wife, he violated his vows and repaired to the altar with the guilt of a perjured man upon his head. Soon after his marriage, he degraded himself by habitual intoxication,

* In the Yorkshire Tragedy falsely attributed to Shakspeare.

rioting, and debauchery, and speedily impoverished himself by his reckless prodigality. In order to obtain a supply of ready money to defray the expence of his vices, he demanded from his wife the disposal of her dowry, and she prepared to obey his mandate by proceeding to her guardian in London, to instruct him to effect the sale. The gentleman to whom she applied, who seems from the original narrative to have been her uncle, evaded compliance with her proposition, but stated his readiness to shelter her husband from the suit of his numerous and urgent creditors, and to provide for him a place of sufficient value to enable him to maintain the style of living, and the appendages of rank to which he had been accustomed. The lady hastened to Calverley with the agreeable intelligence, but her unhappy husband was absent, surrounded by his wicked companions, and pursuing his infamous debaucheries. At length he returned, maddened with perpetual intoxication, with the consciousness of his crimes, and with the conviction that he had utterly ruined himself and his family. To such an extreme of wickedness had he latterly proceeded, that he had endeavoured to account to his associates and to the world for his estrangement from home, by asserting the infidelity of his wife and the illegitimacy of his children. He had even fought a duel with a gentleman who had presumed to remonstrate with him upon his base injustice to a most excellent and virtuous woman, and he was indebted for his life to the forbearance of his antagonist. When he arrived at Calverley, he hastened to his wife, and was engaged in loading her with reproaches for not having sold her dowry, when he was interrupted by the arrival of a gentleman from one of the Universities. This gentleman had come for the purpose of stating to Mr. Calverley the condition of an injured brother, who had become bound for the payment of a thousand pounds for the murderer, who had been sued for the debt, and who at that very time was languishing in a prison, because of his inability to satisfy the creditors. Mr. Calverley replied with composure to this friend of his brother, he requested the gentleman to walk over his estate, and promised that on his return he would give him a satisfactory answer to his communication. The gentleman had no sooner departed, than Mr. Calverley retired to his gallery, where he brooded over the misery he had entailed upon himself and his relatives by his crimes. While he was thus occupied, his eldest child, a boy of about four years of age, came into the

March 23, 1605.

gallery to play, the unnatural father, in a phrenzy of rage, seized upon the helpless boy, plunged his dagger twice or thrice into his body, and hurried with him into the apartment where his wife was asleep, while the nurse was dressing another child by the fire. The infuriated assassin caught the second child from the arms of the nurse, whom he threw with great violence from the door of the room to the foot of the stair case. The noise awoke the unfortunate mother, who instantly perceived the danger of her children. She clasped the second child to her bosom, received herself several thrusts of the dagger while she vainly endeavoured to defend it from her husband, and saw it stabbed to the heart in her arms. Mr. Calverley, perceiving that both the children were dead upon the floor, and that their mother was weltering in her blood, determined to complete his work by murdering his third son, then out at nurse twelve miles off. After a desperate struggle with a servant whom he mastered, he left the house for the stables, and met the gentleman just alluded to on his return from his walk. As he passed him he desired him to walk into the house, and told him that he would soon arrange his brother's business. He then mounted his horse, and set off at full speed on his sanguinary errand. The gentleman no sooner entered the house, and saw the fearful spectacle it presented, than he conjectured the additional crime the murderer intended to perpetrate; he roused the inhabitants of the village, and commenced a vigorous pursuit. Mr. Calverley was thrown from his horse when he was within a few yards of the house where his child was placed, and was so disabled by his fall, that he was easily secured. The next day he was taken before Sir John Savile, of Howley, and Sir Thomas Bland, when he confessed his crime, declared that he had harboured the intention of the murder for more than two years, and that his reason for it was that his wife had frequently given him indications of her own adultery, and tokens that the children were not his. As the plague was raging in York, he was committed to Wakefield prison, but was subsequently taken to York and brought to his trial, after an interval of four months from the murder. Either from desperate obstinacy or from a desire to save the property upon his estate for the use of his only surviving son, he refused to plead, was condemned to be pressed to death, and was executed according to his sentence.

August 6, 1605.

From an old narrative of this dreadful transaction, written

shortly after it occured, it would seem that Mr. Calverley prior to his removal to Howley, to be examined before Sir John Savile, was taken back to his own house, where the following incident is said to have occurred which we shall give in the words of the history. "He intreated the multitude he might speak with his wife before he came to prison, who he heard was alive though in great danger; that liberty was granted him. The distressed gentlewoman when she saw him, forgot her own wounds and the death of her two children, and did a loving kisse him and tenderly imbrace him, as if he had never done her wrong; which strange kindness so shook to his heart, remembering the misery he had heaped upon her, that imbracing one another, there was so pittiful lamentation between them, that had flinte had ears it would have melted into water." The lady afterwards recovered from her wounds.

The manors of Calverley and Pudsey, with the appurtenances in Calverley, Eccleshall, Farsley, &c. had prior to this event been settled in trust on Sir John Brooke and others, for the lives of this Walter Calverley and Philippa his wife, and after their decease on William Calverley, son and heir apparent, and his heirs and so forth. Henry Calverley succeeded to the estate, and was distinguished for his active loyalty in the cause of Charles I., he was visited with the vengeance of the opposite party, he was fined to the amount of one thousand four hundred and fifty-five pounds, and to pay the sequestration, he was compelled to sell his estate at Seacroft, for one thousand three hundred and eighty pounds.* He was the last of the family who permanently resided at Calverley Hall. His son Walter was created knight of the Royal Oak by Charles II. on account of the sufferings of the family in the cause of loyalty, he married the daughter and heiress of Henry Thompsom, Esq. of Esholt, through whom he obtained possession of that beautiful estate. Walter Calverley, created a baronent 1711, married Julia, the daughter of Sir William Blackett, Bart. he built the present excellent house at Esholt, and his son Sir Walter, who took the name of Blackett, on succeeding to the estate, sold the manor of Calverley to Thomas Thornhill, Esq. to whose heir Thomas Thornhill, Esq. of Fixby, in Yorkshire, and Riddlesworth, in Norfolk, it still belongs.

* The value of this composition may be ascertained from the fact, that the same estate was sold a few years ago, and produced forty thousand pounds.

The centre and one wing of Calverley Hall still remain, and notwithstanding the defilement and degradation of the building satisfactorily attest its ancient magnificence. The principal timbers of the roof, which are richly fluted, ascend to support the roof from an embattled wall plate of strong oak, but the subdivisions which were rendered necessary when it was turned into cottages, have obliterated most of the traces of its former magnificence. It is probable that the present fabric was built about the reign of Henry VI. The apartment in which the murder of the two children by their unhappy father was perpetrated, was a wainscotted chamber in the north east angle of the house, from which a staircase descended to what appears to have been the principal or state room of the house. To the family of the Calverleys we shall again have occasion to allude when we refer to the history of the church.

A curious document relative to this village has been published by Dr. Whitaker,* which illustrates the danger which persons obnoxious to their neighbours incurred in the times of abject superstition. In the year 1604 four persons whose names were Robert Hare, Isabel Hare his mother, Ann Brigg, and Eliz. Birkenshaye, all of Calverley, were suspected of "the devilish art of witchcraft." They were accused of this crime before the Justices of Assize by six inhabitants of the village, who signed a document declaring that the unfortunate individuals "had practised and done much hurt and mischief to their neighbours," and that this had been proved by the examination of several persons in the vicinity. That the clergyman of the village placed his name the first on this precious document can occasion no surprise, when it is recollected that the pedantic James I. could devote his time to the composition of a demonology, and that the gravest and most influential persons in the kingdom could unite in condemning to imprisonment and death those who by a satanic power could ride on broomsticks through the air, and subject the beasts of the field and the elements of nature to their command.

FARSLEY.

FARSLEY is a populous village on the banks of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, inhabited almost exclusively by clothiers. In the neighbourhood of this village an occurrence took place in

* Loid and Elmete, 232.

December 1832, which excited considerable alarm. A difference had existed for some time between Mr. A. Hainsworth, a cloth-manufacturer, and his work people, respecting an advance of wages which he had agreed to give, only requiring his men to sign an agreement stating that they were willing to work for him on these terms, and at the same time intimating that those who refused to sign the paper would be discharged when they had finished the work in hand. This agreement was offensive to the Trades' Union, and Mr. Hainsworth received a notice from the secretary of that body stating that if he did not continue to employ the whole of his work people a strike would take place. Because he refused to accede to this requisition, a number of weavers and slubbers quitted his service. Some of the people, however, who were not in the Union, remained at their work. Among these individuals was a young man, James Benson, a native of Ireland, about nineteen years of age, and his sister a few years younger; both of them were obnoxious to the Union men, by continuing at their work, and became in consequence what was technically called Black Sheep. On Wednesday, Dec. 5, they left Mr. Hainsworth's house, where they had been working to return to their home at Stanningley, a mile and a half from Farsley. They had proceeded little more than a third of the distance, when they were suddenly surrounded by thirty or forty men, Benson was mortally wounded, and died at five o'clock on the following morning, but the sister fortunately effected her escape after receiving some severe blows. The following verdict was returned by the Jury on the Coroners Inquest; "We find a verdict of wilful murder against divers persons unknown to us, and we further find that the deceased had become obnoxious to a large body called the Clothier's Union, by refusing to leave his masters employment, and to join them in their endeavours to compel his master, Abimelech Hainsworth, to submit to the dictation of the said Clothier's Union, by paying his workmen such wages as they proposed, and to receive into his service only such persons as the said Union approved of, and have too much reason to fear that his murder has been the consequence of his fidelity to his master." Although one hundred pounds reward was offered by the royal proclamation for the discovery of the murder, and although another hundred pounds reward was offered by the Trades Union, who disclaimed the whole affair and denounced it in the severest terms of reprobation, no clue has yet

been found to lead to the apprehension of any of the murderers, notwithstanding so many were united in the perpetration of the crime. We have recorded this event because it indicates one peculiar characteristic of the age, developing something of the nature of a formidable system existing among a number of combined work people, which a former age could not have imagined, and which a succeeding age will scarcely believe.

PUDSEY.

THIS place is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book. "In Podechesaie, Dustan and Stainulf had eight carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be four ploughs. Ilbert now has it, but it is waste. Value in King Edward's time, forty shillings. Wood pasture half a mile long and half broad." * The township of Pudsey therefore participated in the general devastation of the country in the reign of the ruthless Norman conqueror. This village was the seat of the ancient family of the Milners, or as the name was formerly spelt, of the Mylners, who were settled there in the reign of Edward II. and one of whom purchased the manor of Walter Calverley, in 1663. No particulars can be recorded of this place which will interest the reader. Immense excitement was created here during the registry of votes for the last election for the West Riding, by the objections which were brought forwards by the Tory party against about ninety freeholders in the township, principally the owners of mill property, held in partnership. Sixty-six of these claims were allowed before the revising barristers at Bradford, and the consequence was, that the victory was celebrated with unbounded rejoicings in the village, the church bells were rung incessantly on the evening of the day on which the triumph was achieved, the steeple was brilliantly illuminated, and the inhabitants united in general congratulation and festivity.

The village of Pudsey is inhabited almost entirely by clothiers, and notwithstanding its elevated situation, it is one of the dirtiest and most unpleasant in the district.

At FULNECK, in the township of Pudsey, the Moravians, or United Brethren, have formed one of the most extensive and important establishments they possess in the kingdom. A number of persons both Britons and foreigners, who had formed a connexion with the United Brethren, began to build this settlement in

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 141.

1748, and they called it Grace Hall, or Lamb's Hall. They were visited by Count Zinzendorf, who had afforded an asylum to some of the persecuted descendants of the ancient Moravian churches on one of his estates in Germany; and about the time of his visit the place began to be designated Fulneck, by which name it has been known through the kingdom. A long series of excellent buildings, with a fine terrace in front, is carried along the north side of a beautiful valley, and contains ample accommodation for the fraternity. The edifices consist of a chapel, a school for girls, a residence for the minister, a school for boys, a house for single men, another for single women, and another for widows. The houses for separate families form a considerable village, in which various branches of trade are cultivated, although the woollen manufacture employs the largest proportion of the population. The skill of the single women in working muslins with the needle and tambour has long been celebrated, and the produce of their labours frequently sells at a very considerable price. The vocal and instrumental music at public worship at this place, has been deservedly considered superior to any thing of the kind in the vicinity. The burial ground is strikingly beautiful, and presents an impressive scene of simple solemnity and repose. Few communities in the kingdom or in the world are conducted with such admirable order and regularity, or have been the means of effecting so much good as that of the United Brethren, at Fulneck.

IDLE.

IDLE is a very large village, or rather town, in this parish, inhabited by manufacturers and clothiers, who carry on a very considerable trade. It is an irregular, rambling, dirty place, on the declivity of a hill, with nothing to recommend its appearance, or remarkable in its history. Its chapel and other places of worship will be described in another place—its academy, supported by the Congregationalists for the instruction of young men intended for the ministry, has been removed to the neighbourhood of Bradford, and the establishment at Woodhouse Grove, near Apperley Bridge, founded on the principle of the seminary at Kingswood, for the education of the sons of Wesleyan Methodist ministers, will be elsewhere alluded to. The proximity of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal affords to the village the inestimable advantages of internal navigation.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF CALVERLEY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Calverley and Farsley, ...	2,081	2,390	2,605	2,637
Bolton, ...	471	581	634	671
Idle, ...	3,398	3,852	4,666	5,416
Pudsey, ...	4,422	4,697	6,229	7,460

SECTION III.—THE PARISH OF GUISELEY.

HORSEFORTH.

This place is evidently so called from a ford practicable by horses through the river below. It has however been asserted, that since by Kirkby's Inquest,* it appears that Hereford was a name given to it in ancient times, it signifies "the ford of the army," from the Saxon *Here*, an army. This assertion however may be safely dismissed without further observation.

Horseforth is twice mentioned in Doomsday Book. First it is mentioned among the Lands of the King. "In Horseforde three Thanes had six carucates to be taxed. Land to three ploughs. Thirty shillings." Again, under the head of Land of the King's Thanes, it is stated that Robert de Bruis held in Horseforde two carucates.† This Robert occupied a vast quantity of land in this neighbourhood, in other parts of the West Riding, and in the East and North Ridings. It would seem that the land here was generally cultivated, but although no wood is mentioned, it is evident from subsequent records and from the face of the country at the present day, that the woods must have covered a considerable extent of ground. The family of Robert de Bruis, or Brus, from whom were descended the celebrated Bruces of Scotland, and the present noble family of Aylesbury, continued for a considerable period to hold land in Horseforth, for Kirkby's Inquest mentions that the heirs of John Mauleverer held one carucate of Peter le Brus. The abbots of Kirkstall, at an early period, acquired the principal part of Horseforth, and after the dissolution, Edward VI. in the first year of his reign, granted all the demesne lands held by the monastery of Kirkstall with other estates, to Archbishop Cranmer. Three years afterwards Cranmer obtained a licence to alienate these lands for the use of Thomas Cranmer, his eldest son. That this Thomas transferred his possessions to Edward Lord Clinton,

* Kirkby's Inquest was taken A. D. 1287, the fifteenth of Edward I.

† Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 34, 234.

appears almost certain from the fact that this nobleman sold the manor of Horseforth to Samuel Green, Stephen Pasley, Richard Pollard, John Stanhope, and Robert Craven. Of the families of these purchasers of the manor, the Stanhopes, the Pollards, and the Cravens, remain to the present day.

The family of the Stanhopes resided at Horseforth for many generations, and their ancient residence before the New Hall was built, is still to be seen on the road to Calverley. They surrounded the latter residence with a small park, and their plantations, carried on to the summit of the very high hill on the north, form a conspicuous object to an immense distance on the east. The hall is now the residence of the Rev. J. A. Rhodes. We shall have occasion to state in another place the liberality of the Stanhopes in the erection of the present episcopal chapel on the site of the ancient edifice. This family have not been the only benefactors of the village. The road from Horseforth to Bramley, to Stanningley, and to Bradford was formerly immensely circuitous and difficult, the evil was remedied in 1819, when John Pollard, Esq. erected an iron bridge over the Aire immediately below the village at an expence of one thousand five hundred pounds.

But few events have occurred in this village and its neighbourhood, which demand the attention of the reader. Horseforth, like Beeston and Calverley, has been distinguished by one fatal circumstance in the annals of crime. In the month of July, 1804, the inhabitants were appalled by the intelligence that Mr. William Stables, a cloth manufacturer, had been murdered in his own house. John Stables, his brother, immediately offered a reward of one hundred guineas for the discovery of the perpetrators of the horrid deed. Upon this man, however, notwithstanding his apparent zeal, the suspicion of his neighbours ultimately rested, and it was generally feared that as a fratricide he had imbrued his own hands in the blood of the victim. However this may be, he was never happy afterwards, existence became intolerable, and three months after the death of his brother he hanged himself in his own barn.

New Laiths, near Horseforth, was long the residence of the very ancient family of the Greenwoods, descended from Wyomarus Greenwode, "Cater" to the Empress Maude, in 1154. A curious fact is ascertained relative to this estate, it has been twice conveyed from the family and twice it has been regained by

them. James Greenwood, who served as a soldier in the war between the Dutch and Spaniards, and Mary, his second wife, the daughter of Francis Bellhouse, Town Clerk of Leeds, conveyed the estate at New Laiths, in 1658, to Thomas Lord Viscount Savile, Earl of Sussex, and in 1670, James Lord Viscount Savile, Earl of Sussex, and Baron of Pontefract and Castleton, reconveyed the estate to the same individual. Again James Greenwood, the son of the preceeding, sold the estate to John Swaine, of Horseforth, in the year 1699, and it was repurchased by Joseph Greenwood, his nephew, who died 1728. The recent alterations which have been made in the house at New Laiths, have elevated it to the rank of a commodious and respectable mansion, the situation is most beautiful on a sheltered and wooded eminence above the Aire, and the prospect down the river would be truly delightful were it not too frequently interrupted by the black clouds of smoke which emanate from Kirkstall Forge.

RAWDEN.

The derivation of this name has been satisfactorily ascertained to be from Raa, a wild goat, and Den, a woody place or valley affording both food and shelter for cattle. Rawden, like Horseforth, is twice mentioned in the Doomsday Book, First among the King's lands it is stated, "In Roudun Glunier, Ganiel and Sandi had three carucates to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Ten shillings." And again it is stated that "Robert de Bruis or Brus held here six oxgangs."* It would seem, however, that the king, soon after the compilation of Doomsday Book, granted this estate to Paulinus de Rawden, as a reward for his services with a body of archers which he commanded, and here the family continued for more than six hundred years. The most renowned person in this family during its residence at Rawden was Sir George Rawden, a warrior and hero. He had a command in Ireland, and was absent at his own estate when the horrible massacre of 1641 was perpetrated in that country. As soon as he heard the tidings, he hastened through Scotland to his post, and arrived at Lisburn, seven miles from Belfast, at the very time when Sir Phelim O'Neale, at the head of four or five thousand papists, was about to break into the town, and to murder the inhabitants. Sir George found only two hundred men ready to resist the ferocious banditti who had desolated the country with fire

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book. 34, 234.

and sword, and even this little band had only forty-seven muskets among them; but they were animated with a determination to sell their lives as dearly as possible, and even the women prepared to participate in the dangers of the conflict. Sir George, who was well known among the native Irish, made his dispositions with such consummate skill, that the enemy soon became aware of his return, and the cry, "Sir George Rawden has come from England, intimidated the assailants." Numbers, however, were on the point of prevailing; Sir George's horse was shot under him, and the enemy were already raising a shout of triumph, when a reinforcement and a supply of ammunition arrived from Belfast, the papists were defeated, Sir George saved his little garrison from massacre, and acquired the honour of having performed one of the most glorious actions of the war. Sir George, who had previously been created a baronet, afterwards commanded a regiment for Charles I. and died in 1684, in the eightieth year of his age. His great grandson was created baron Rawden, of Moira 1750, and Earl Moira 1761. He married for his third wife, Lady Elizabeth Hastings, Baroness Hastings in his own right. Their son Francis Rawden Hastings, as the Earl of Moira, and one of the intimate friends of George IV, when Prince of Wales, was for a long time one of the most prominent characters in the empire. He was created Marquess of Hastings, was Governor-General of India, and afterwards became Governor of Malta. He was succeeded in his title and estates by George Augustus Francis, the present Marquess.

The Hall at Rawden, long the residence of this distinguished family, is situated a little to the east of the church or chapel, and with its extensive front and projecting gables, placed on a commanding and elevated situation, presents an extremely imposing appearance from the new road between Yeadon and Kirkstall, and still exhibits numerous indications of the dignity and importance of its noble possessors. The village is principally inhabited by clothiers, and there are some very extensive manufactories in the neighbourhood. We have already stated that one of them, belonging to Messrs. Thompson, was visited by the Luddites in 1812, and a considerable quantity of machinery was destroyed.

YEADON

Is derived from Ea-dun, the water on the hill, for above the village there is a turn which appears to have been partly natural,

and gave its name to the place. Yeadon is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book: "In Ladun, Game, and Glunier had four carucates to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Twenty shillings."* From this it appears that at the time of the Conquest Yeadon was double the value of Rawden. It afterwards belonged to the nunnery of Esholt. No particulars can be recorded of this village of any general interest. For the period of forty years, it was lately degraded by the practices of an impostor called Hannah Green, or the Lingbob Witch, who extorted more than a thousand pounds from the silly crowds of credulous people who resorted to her to have their fortunes told, or to ascertain how they could recover lost property, or avert imaginary ills. This woman died in 1810, and was succeeded in her lucrative profession by her daughter Hannah Spence, who, strange to tell, found a man possessed of sufficient courage to marry a witch. In these remote parts of the country, notwithstanding the diffusion of general and of religious knowledge, there still lingers much of superstition, and many a foolish idea and ridiculous practice must be driven away, before the "march of intellect" and the progress of "the schoolmaster," ere the credulity of the people is dissipated.

GUISELEY.

For this place a very few words must suffice. In Doomsday Book it is just mentioned as Gisele,† and is included in one vast manor with Otley, and many surrounding villages belonging to the archbishops of York. At this period, for Otley, Middleton, Denton, Poole, Guiseley, Baildon, Menston, Burley, Ilkley, and many adjoining places, there was but one church; and limited as the population must have been in the Saxon times, it was materially diminished by the ravages and cruelties of the Normans. For it is expressly stated that the greater part of this extensive district was waste, and though in the time of Edward the Confessor it was worth ten pounds, it had suffered so deplorably, that its value had been diminished more than two thirds.‡ Soon after this period Guiseley became the lordship and the residence of the Wards, a family of considerable importance in this part of the country, from the twelfth to the sixteenth century,

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 34. † Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 52.
‡ Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 52.

when they became extinct. Of the beautiful church which they built, an account will be given in another place. After the death of Sir Christopher Ward in 1522, the manor of Guiseley was sold to the Sherburnes, of Stonyhurst, in Lancashire, and in 1717 it was bequeathed by the last of that family, Sir Nicholas Sherburne, Bart. to his daughter the duchess of Norfolk. It was afterwards sold to the freeholders, who are now the joint lords. The situation of Guiseley, though rather high, is comparatively sheltered, and the village is far more comely and pleasant than either of its subordinates, Rawden or Yeadon. Nothing can be stated of Carlton which will interest the reader.

HAWKESWORTH, long the residence of one of the most ancient and respectable families in the county of York, is situated to the west of Guiseley, on a cold but commanding elevation, and commands a most extensive view both of Airedale and the distant hills of Clayton Heights and Saddleworth. Of the residents at this place, which was abandoned by its proprietors for the warmth and comfort of Wharfdale, we shall give some particulars in the proper place.

It may be remarked in closing this account of the parish of Guiseley, that the convenience of Yeadon, of Rawden, and Horseforth, as manufacturing villages, has been most materially subserved by the new road from Guiseley, which communicates with the Leeds and Bradford road at Kirkstall. It will be difficult to select in this district any road which for so long a distance, commands a prospect so extensive or scenery so beautiful, the view from the neighbourhood of Rawden looking towards Rombalds Moor and up the valley of the Aire is one of the finest in the country.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF GUISELEY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Carlton,	115	185	158	191
Guiseley	825	959	1,213	1,604
Horseforth	2,099	2,315	2,824	3,425
Rawden	1,115	1,450	1,759	2,059
Yeadon	1,659	1,954	2,455	2,761
Total	10,028.			

CHAPTER IV.

BRADFORD.

THERE can be no doubt that the name of this prosperous and important town has been derived from the ford at the foot of the hill upon which the old church has been erected. Since, however, the bed of the brook which runs down the valley to the Aire is very contracted, topographers have been at a loss how to account for the epithet *Brad* or *Broad*. But this appellation may have been imposed, either because of the floods which in the time of tempest or of winter rush from the high hills, and render the brook a foaming and a formidable torrent, or because the waters rolled down a pebbly bed of considerable width. This is the case with many streams in themselves insignificant, which have channels of great breadth, and the fording of which is occasionally very dangerous.

In the Saxon times Bradford was a place of no consequence whatever, it formed a part of the great parish of Dewsbury, and in all probability it afterwards was consolidated, like Leeds and many other neighbouring places, into the great barony of Pontefract.

This town is mentioned in Doomsday Book in the following terms, "In Bradford with six Berewics, Gamel had fifteen carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be eight ploughs. Ilbert has it and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time, four pounds. Wood pasture half a mile long and half broad."* The scourge then of desolating war had visited this township, as well as other regions of the north; no allusion is made to any inhabitants; no reference is given to any resident proprietors or occupiers of land; no reason is given for believing that any of its soil was under actual cultivation, and the value of the produce appears to have been absolutely nothing. From the statements

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 14L

of the Doomsday survey most of the townships in the parish were evidently reduced to the same solitude and ruin, and the condition of the district round Bradford was indubitably still more deplorable than that of the country in the vicinity of Leeds.

In this melancholy state, however, the place was not suffered long to remain. The Lacies were not only in possession of the rich fee of Pontefract, but also of the barony of Clitheroe in Lancashire; and those potent noblemen would often have occasion to pass from the one to the other on occasions of pomp, or business, or war. The fatigues of so long a march through a wild, a rugged, a desolate, and almost an uninhabited country, required a halting place; and the tempests which often sweep with tremendous fury over the bleak hills, and along the deep vallies, would frequently demand a shelter for the chieftains and their retainers. For these purposes, Bradford would be selected as being directly in the way, as being situated in a warm and pleasant valley, and having a country around it which, with a little cultivation, might easily be rendered productive of adequate supplies. But in these rude times, when the Norman conquerors were hated as well as feared, when their oppressions and insolence frequently goaded the native inhabitants to insurrection and revolt, and when the foreign Barons themselves were frequently waging implacable and sanguinary feuds, security from open violence and treacherous surprise would be essential to shelter, and the resting place of a powerful nobleman, repeatedly visited, would rapidly assume the apperance of a strong fortification. It is not only probable, but it is certain, that in the time of the Lacies, there was a fortress at Bradford, for in the inquisition taken after the death of Henry de Lacy, the last Earl of Lincoln, in 1316, the term *burgesses* occurs, which was never applied but to the residents in the neighbourhood of a castle. The security afforded by the existence of such an edifice, and by its garrison, together with the hope of obtaining some advantage or privilege from the lords who either rested or resided at the place, would soon create the rudiments of a village or a town, their safety and prosperity would soon attract the inhabitants of a less settled and protected district, and then, says Dr. Whitaker, who never fails to identify a town with a church, "The inconvenient distance of the place, and still more so of the remoter parts of the present parish from Dewsbury, would occur. The Lacies were a devout * and munificent family; and

* That is lovers of ecclesiastics and founders of monasteries.

at the representation of the people of Bradford, an agreement would be made with the Earls Warren, a stipend in lieu of tithes and other rights settled upon the rector of Dewsbury, a rectorial glebe and tithes assigned to the incumbent of the new parish, and a church erected."*

In these halcyon days of ecclesiastics, when no sturdy dissentient dared to question their undoubted claim to tithes and "other rights," and when it was esteemed a fatal calamity to die without the presence of a priest, or to be buried in other than consecrated ground, the accomplishment of such an arrangement in such a method was extremely probable, and the conjecture is not likely to be very far removed from the actual state of the case. So early, however, as the year we have mentioned above (1316) it is evident from the Inquisition alluded to, that the castle had been either demolished or destroyed, and a manor house had been erected in its stead. Various interesting particulars are communicated by this inquisition relative to the state of the town and parish of Bradford. Of the forty thousand acres which the parish contains, only fifteen hundred at this period had been reclaimed. All the old manors mentioned in the Doomsday survey, had been absorbed in that of Bradford, and one court was holden for the affairs of the whole every alternate three weeks. The town consisted of twenty-eight burgage houses, and besides the burgesses was inhabited by probably about as many tenants at will and villanes. Its whole population therefore did not amount to more than three hundred souls. Two mills are mentioned in the inquisition, a corn mill and a fulling mill. It has been conjectured that the soke of the first was co-extensive with the parish, because its profits amounted to more than one fourth of the lords receipts from the whole. The existence of a fulling mill argues that some kind of coarse manufacture had already commenced. The glebe of the church extended to ninety-six acres of land. One curious fact remains to be mentioned, the market was held on Sunday; which seems to imply, that in a parish of such vast extent, and in which a large proportion of the inhabitants lived at an immense distance from the town, it was in those days deemed allowable to identify going to market to buy necessary provisions, and going to church to listen to unintelligible prayers.

By the marriage of Alice de Lacy, only daughter and heiress of the last Earl of Lincoln with Thomas Earl of Lancaster, the

* Loid and Elm. 351.

possessions of the Lacies were united to those of the duchy of Lancaster. In the time of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the following curious grant was given, the history of which we state in the language of Gough. "Bradford belonged to John of Gaunt, who granted to John Northorp, of Manningham, and his heirs, three messuages and six bovates of land, to come to Bradford on the blowing of a horn in winter, and to wait upon him and his heirs on their way from Blackburnshire, with a lance and hunting dog for thirty days; to have for yeoman's board one penny for himself, and a half-penny for his dog. A descendant of this Northorp afterwards granted land to Rushworth of Horton to hold the lance, while Northorp's man blew the horn. The name of Hornmen or Horn blower's lands, was imposed upon the lands in question, and the custom is still kept up. A man comes into the market place with a horn, a halbert, and a dog; he is there met by the owner of the lands in Horton. After the proclamation made the former calls out aloud, "Heirs of Rushworth, come hold me my hound, while I blow three blasts with my horn, to pay the rent due to our sovereign lord the King." He then delivers the string to the man from Horton, and winds his horn thrice. The original horn, resembling that of Tutbury in Staffordshire, is still preserved, though stripped of its original ornaments." These fragments of ancient tenures are highly interesting, and in some respects useful, as they testify to the rude manners of the olden times, as they point out the abject condition of the great body of the people under the feudal system, and as they illustrate the superior safety of property and the better maxims of right which prevail in these happier times.

Of the extent of population, of the relative condition of the town, and of its progress in the scale of general importance, no further information can be communicated for nearly three hundred years. The testimony of Leland proves that in the reign of Henry VIII. Bradford had very considerably increased in magnitude, and was already distinguished by the spirit, industry, and enterprise of its inhabitants. The words of the old topographer are, "Bradeford, a praty, quite market towne, dimidio aut eo amplius minus Wackefelda. It hath one paroche chirche, and a chapel of St. Sitha. It stondith much by clothing, and is distant VI miles from Halifax, and four miles from Christeal abbay. There is a confluence in this towne of three brokes. One risethe above Bouline Haul, so that the bed is a mile dim. from the

towne, and this at the towne hath a bridge of one arch. Another risethe a ii mile of, having a mille and a bridge of . . . . . the 3 risethe foor mile of having . . . ." And in another place, to which we have already adverted, he says that Leeds, though "as large as Bradford is not so quick as it." It is evident then from these passages, that Bradford was even then celebrated for its manufactures, that its bustle of trade communicated to it great liveliness of appearance, and that next to Wakefield it was in all probability the most prosperous town in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The seeds of its future greatness were then sown, although it was long before the golden harvest was presented to the reaper. Leland seems to have had a more accurate acquaintance with this locality, than many of his topographical successors; for while with reference to the brooks, almost the only descriptive phrase made use of for some time afterwards was, "the water which runneth by Bradford," he has described them with great accuracy and propriety.

Another fact is ascertained by the language of Leland. From the circumstance, that in some of the oldest attestations to a charter connected with this vicinity, the town is spelt Braforthe, combined with another circumstance, that this pronunciation until very lately was preserved by the inhabitants of the parish—it has been contended that this was the original orthography of the word, that therefore the derivation which we have given above of the designation of the town, cannot be correct, and that consequently the *ford* was not distinguished in the name as being *broad* or *brade*,, but as having been beneath the *brae*, or brow, upon whose commanding elevation the parish church was erected. All this is very plausible, and is certainly very unimportant, but it may be remarked, that the whole conjecture is completely falsified by the incontrovertible authority of Doomsday, combined with the decision of so accurate a writer as Leland.

"Quik," however, as Bradford may have been in the reign of Henry VIII. it must have been comparatively a most miserable place; a few wretched lanes beneath or in the immediate neighbourhood of the church constituted the whole of the town; the houses were hovels, composed of stone, of plaister, and of wood, covered with thatch; the comforts, or as they would then have been deemed, the effeminate luxuries of modern times, were unknown; the "clothing" fabricated by the inhabitants by some rude process of manual labours, was unsightly, coarse, and perish-

able; and the whole population was immersed in superstition, ignorance, and barbarism.

We have no record of any transactions in Bradford during the times of confusion which followed the demolition of the papal tyranny and the dissolution of the monasteries. It is rendered probable by some insignificant circumstances, that the inhabitants were prejudiced in favour of the old superstition; that they were zealously attached to the cause of the wandering friars,

> ——————— White, black, and grey
> With all their trumpery;

and that some of its sturdy sons partook in the temporary triumph and ultimate defeat of the fanatics of the Pilgrimage of Grace. Situated on the high road between York and the catholic districts of Lancashire, it would witness the incessant transit of the papal emissaries in their enthusiastic attempt to bolster up their falling cause by arousing the passions of the credulous populace, while at the same time the good sense and characteristic acuteness of the people, would induce them to spurn with contempt the absurdities and blasphemies of popery as soon as they were exposed and denounced.

The Inquisition of 1577 gives us no information beyond the number of the manors, villages, and hamlets into which the vast parish of Bradford was then divided. We shall content ourselves with giving the general list without translating the particular details, which have no possible connexion with our history. V. Allerton cu'. H. Wilsden. V. Bolton. V. Bolling. V. Clayton H. Heton cu.' Frising hall. V. Thornton cu.' H. Cockham and H. Hedley. V. Horton parva. V. Horton magna. V. Haworth cu'. V. Oxenhope and V. Stanbury. V. Manningham cu.' Northop. V. Wyke cap. mess. Voc. Crossley Hall. These divisions and names of places may be compared with those which already exist, and will enable the reader to form some estimate of the local geography of the period.

It may be remarked in this place, that the date of the rapid increase of the population and consequent importance of Bradford, may be ascertained from that of the present church. The building which preceded it had in all probability become ruinous; the erection of a fabric of such imposing magnitude and appearance as the second church would certainly never have been undertaken but in a town highly flourishing and extending; and since the church was finished in the thirty sixth year of Henry VI.

there can be little doubt that in the reign of that unfortunate monarch, Bradford first began to emerge into importance from obscurity and insignificance. The desolations and calamities of the wars of the Roses seem never to have reached the parish of Bradford.

The history of Bradford, with the exception of that part of it which includes the civil wars, is by no means interesting, and in consequence of the arrangement we have adopted in this work, is almost entirely included in the ecclesiastical and commercial departments. Under the latter head will be found a variety of particulars of the highest possible importance both to the inhabitants of the town, and of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The parish indeed affords fewer subjects for antiquarian and historic research than any other in the district, on account of the fact that no Roman station, no Roman remains have ever been discovered, and no monastic foundation ever existed, within its limits.

We have already given an extended narrative of the transactions which affected the condition of Bradford in the reign of Charles I.—we have described the indomitable courage and unparalleled spirit of its inhabitants in that eventful struggle, and the ardour and pertinacity of their attachment to the cause of the parliament—we have related the events which took place in its seiges by the royalist forces, its imminent danger of military devastation and entire destruction, and the extraordinary and providential means of its deliverance—and we have stated how after the final retreat of the cavaliers, it was made the point of concentration for the adherents of the popular party and the friends of liberty and republicanism. However honourable to the inhabitants was the bravery which so often resisted the fury of disciplined soldiers and the operations of skilful generals, and however renowned it became in consequence of the prominent part which it acted in the operations of the war, it is certain that a shock was given to its prosperity from which it only very slowly and gradually recovered. Military courage in the inhabitants of any town in the time of intestine war, is the most dangerous and expensive virtue which can be exhibited, and so the people of Bradford found it to their cost; they were saved it is true from the horrors of military execution, and they obtained a first and foremost place in renown, but their trade was ruined, their wealth was diminished, their affairs were reduced to a state of abject stagnation, and more than half a century elapsed before they

recovered from the effects of the contest, and were enabled to congratulate each other on their resuscitated prosperity. It was probably in consequence of this circumstance that Bradford was outstripped by Leeds in the career of improvement, and that with the single exception of the institution and endowment of their grammar school hereafter to be described, no event occurred for more than a hundred years, which warrants an introduction to this narrative.

About the middle of the last century the town appears to have been in a flourishing condition, although no material increase took place in the numbers of its population. In 1768 the cloth and wool of the inhabitants seem to have been exposed in their yards and fields without sufficient caution, for when at that time a great flood took place in the beck, a considerable quantity of their commodities were carried away by the stream and were irrecoverably lost to the owners. At the same time the bridge, most likely an old and insufficient structure, was swept away by the fury of the torrent, and a man and a boy who were standing upon it at the time, were also overwhelmed by the waters.

The following year a festival was celebrated with considerable splendour in Bradford, which, after the lapse of every seven years, still excites the joyful attention of the district. Bishop Blaize, who held the see of Sebaste in Armenia, of which country he is deemed the patron saint, is generally supposed to have invented the art of combing wool. On this account the woolcombers hold a jubilee on his festival, and by processions and other tokens of rejoicing, commemorate the important institution of the founder of their art. From time immemorial this festival has been held sacred, and on particular occasions considerable expense has been contracted to render the ceremonies worthy of the day. There has not, however, been so much enthusiasm recently as formerly. The attention of the operative population has been directed to so many topics involving all their welfare, and in fact their very existence, that they are more deliberate than joyous, and reflection has in a great measure taken the place of excitement.

The fact which we have stated in our General History of the District, that the æra of the American war was the commencement of that energy of political inquiry which has ever since distinguished the inhabitants of this department of Yorkshire, is fully substantiated by the history of Bradford. We find the

town illuminated on the aquittal of John Wilkes, at that time esteemed the champion of popular liberty; many families, too, conceiving that in our trans-atlantic possessions they would escape from that burden of taxation by which they were here ground down to the dust, left their country and their homes in search of exemption from imposts and superior prosperity; the people rose in tumultuous exasperation against the government, whose impolitic proceedings they justly deemed the cause of that dearness of the provisions of life by which their families were reduced to the verge of starvation; and on more than one occasion the strong arm of the law was required to repress the excesses of popular violence and disaffection.

At the same time the inhabitants of Bradford conferred honour upon themselves and upon their town by their liberality and patriotism. During the French revolutionary war, when the invasion of the country was repeatedly threatened by its mortal enemies, they raised and equipped one of the best appointed corps of volunteers in the West Riding; and when the different towns were individually required to furnish a certain number of men for the naval service of the kingdom, the Bradfordians formed a A. D. 1795. kind of recruiting procession of gentlemen and tradesmen, who paraded the town with music and the usual appendages of such a proceeding, and succeeded in obtaining their quota with far less difficulty than in the places in their neighbourhood.

We have already stated many circumstances which clearly shew, that up to the commencement of the present century, the most deplorable ignorance and the grossest credulity prevailed among a very large proportion of the people of this district. Education was by no means generally diffused, nor were the ideas of the poorer classes enlarged and rectified by reading. Bradford, as well as many other places in its vicinity, afforded striking indications of this melancholy fact. A fellow resided in the town to whom great numbers of people resorted in order to have the future exposed to their observation, and to obtain that exemption from calamity which it was supposed supernatural knowledge could confer. A frightful circumstance completely confounded the pretensions of the sorcerer and rescued his tools from his power. This John Hepworth, for so the Bradford fortune teller was called, was consulted, among others, by a poor aged weaver, who had been repeatedly injured by his neighbours, and who according to the preposterous prevalent belief, came to the conclusion that his

dwelling was haunted by an evil spirit. He sent for John Hepworth to exorcise the house. The seer took a quantity of human blood, mixed it with hairs, poured it into a large iron bottle, corked it up tightly, and put it into the fire. This was the charm which was to drive away the devil. The steam, however, produced by the boiling of the blood, burst the iron bottle into a thousand fragments, the weaver was killed upon the spot, and the wretched cause of the catastrophe was unable any longer to support himself upon the contributions of impiety and folly. This event is of no importance in itself; but as an indication of the state of the people at the time, and of the extent to which, even at this late period, an odious superstition prevailed among the people, it is by no means devoid of interest.

The astonishing progress of Bradford in mercantile, manufacturing, and general importance, did not commence until the beginning of the present century. That we may avoid interfering with our commercial history, we shall content ourselves here with giving a mere statement of that progress. One of its greatest auxiliaries was the opening of a branch canal from the heart of the town to the Leeds and Liverpool canal, so that the inestimable advantages of internal navigation were afforded to the inhabitants; the introduction and increase of the stuff manufactory is the vital source of this amazing prosperity; the business which is transacted in the Thursday's market is immense, and the Piece Hall, of which we shall speak hereafter, presents on these occasions one of the most animated scenes in the kingdom. It has been justly observed by Mr. Baines, to whose historical labours every town in the district is deeply indebted, that "no manufacturing town in England has suffered so little from the depression of trade as Bradford. In war and in peace it has been alike prosperous. It has indeed felt the vicissitudes of trade in common with other places, but the depression has generally been of short duration, and it has been among the first to feel the vivifying effects of the return of prosperous times." The rapid progress of Bradford is indeed one of the most striking phenomena in the history of the British Empire. The population has increased in a manner truly amazing. In 1801 it consisted of six thousand and a little more than three hundred souls, and in 1831 it amounted to more than twenty-three thousand two hundred, that is to say it has nearly quadrupled in thirty years. And the progress of its intelligence, its opulence, its educational privileges, and its charitable and reli-

gious institutions, has kept pace with the increase of its population; and there is no town in the kingdom where there is more comfort, more true respectability, more liberal public spirit, or a more zealous attention to every possible means of moral and social improvement. Abundant demonstrations have been made of the justice of these observations. Of the grammar schools and other similar institutions, of the numerous charities, and of the religious edifices we shall elsewhere speak. Concerning the general appearance of the town we can only say in correspondence with our limits, that within the last twenty years it has altered materially for the better, greater attention has been paid to the aspect and regularity of the houses and to the direction of the streets, and though the buildings, formed of white stone, soon contract a miserably dirty appearance from the immensity of the smoke which issues from the mills, and in particular states of the weather envelopes the whole town in a murky cloud of stifling vapour, yet some of the new streets have a very respectable appearance. The opening of New Street in a right line with the brook, and of the new road to Leeds directly from the Sun Inn, have been very great improvements, and the new streets, more particularly on the north side of the town, are imposing if they are not elegant. The New Market, opened on the 16th of September, 1824, is very commodious—the Gas Works opened just a year before, under the auspices of a company formed in 1822, brilliantly illuminate the town—the Dispensary, the foundation stone of which was laid by the vicar, the Rev. H. Heap, on the 29th of May, 1826, affords inestimable advantages to the diseased and the destitute—the two establishments for supplying the town with water are very complete—The Mechanics Institute, founded in 1829, has disseminated a taste for enlightened investigation among many of the operatives—the Joint Stock Banking Company, established in March 1827, with a capital of five hundred thousand pounds, in one hundred pound shares, has essentially subserved pecuniary stability and convenience—the Savings' Bank, in Bank Street, has been most useful to the poor—and the Exchange Buildings, opened in October 1829, is a monument of the spirit and liberality of the town. This elegant and classical edifice was erected from the designs of F. Goodman, Esq. it contains an excellent library, a news room, a concert room, and every accommodation for the public, and is one of the most complete establishments of the kind in the county. Justice has usually been administered in the

Piece Hall. It was anticipated that on account of the want of accommodation in the prison and for the magistrates, the Quarter Sessions would have been removed to Wakefield, but in the present month (March 1833) the inhabitants have determined to obviate the disgrace which such an occurrence would attach to the town, they have come forward in a most liberal manner to obtain a proper Court House and Prison, and aided by a grant from the magistrates, there is no doubt that the object will soon be accomplished.

The town of Bradford has more than once been agitated by alarming commotions excited by the adoption of machinery and the subject of wages. The operatives, not without reason, regarded the introduction of power looms with hatred and exasperation. A worsted stuff manufacturer of the town, Mr. James Warbrick, in 1822, having procured one of these obnoxious machines, sent it as privately as possible to a mill at Shipley, where its operations were to commence. The people, however, soon ascertained the fact, public notice was given of its arrival in all the neighbouring villages, a great number of weavers assembled and threatened to level the mill with the ground if the loom was not instantly taken away, it had no sooner been placed in a cart, protected by a body of constables, than the exasperated weavers rushed upon it with irresistible fury, the constables were compelled to seek safety in flight, the loom was destroyed, and its roller and warp was dragged in triumph through Baildon. The unfortunate operatives were, however, unable to obstruct the general adoption of the detested machines, they were soon almost universally introduced into the manufactories, and there are now a vast number of power looms in active operation in Bradford and its neighbourhood.

The year 1825 witnessed events at Bradford which excited general attention through the kingdom. In the month of February, the festival of Bishop Blaize was celebrated with more than usual splendour and gaiety, and during the same month, the inhabitants, for the benefit of the operative population, established their Mechanics Institute. Dissatisfaction had become universal on account of the wretched wages which were paid for labour, and a popular explosion soon took place. On the fourteenth of June the woolcombers and weavers of the town and the adjacent villages turned out for an advance of wages—the masters would not accede to the terms which were proposed—and the consequence

was, unexampled excitement and exasperation. Twenty thousand of the operatives formed what was called the Bradford Union; for twenty-three weeks they maintained their opposition to the system against which they protested; during the whole of this time they were supported by contributions and collections from the working classes in different parts of the kingdom, who united to maintain what they considered a common cause; but at the expiration of the period we have mentioned, the union men were obliged to turn in to their work at the old prices. The union was dissolved on November 7th, but twelve hundred of the combers and weavers, and more than one thousand of the children, could not for some time obtain employment even at the old prices, and the consequence was deplorable and unprecedented distress, many unfortunate families being reduced to the extreme of starvation.

This was perhaps the most unfortunate year in the whole history of Bradford. The public credit of the town received the most alarming shock it ever experienced from the stoppage of the bank of Messrs. Wentworth, Chaloner, and Rishworths. This firm, whose transactions were immensely extensive, had not only establishments in Wakefield, London, and York, but it had a bank in Bradford, and its paper was very generally circulated in the town and neighbourhood. This tremendous failure produced a panic in this part of the kingdom unexampled in its history, and many have not yet recovered from its effects. One result of this circumstance was, that many building and other speculations were suddenly arrested, a great many workpeople were thrown out of employ, and the resources of many of the trades people and others were completely destroyed. Never perhaps was there a period of such consternation and commercial vicissitude. It redounds in no common degree to the honour of the Bradford people, that their prudence, their stability, and accuracy, preserved them in a great measure from the full extent of those calamities which filled many other places with almost indiscriminate ruin.

The following year (1826) was signalized by the most alarming riot which ever took place in the town of Bradford. On the afternoon of the first of May, a meeting of unemployed workmen was held upon Fairweather Green, at a short distance from the town. The meeting was by no means numerous, not more than two hundred and fifty persons having been at any time assembled.

These misguided and infatuated men, goaded on by their misery, proceeded about five o'clock in the afternoon to the mill of Messrs. Horsfall, near the Old Church, which contained a number of power looms for weaving stuffs; but although they threatened the demolition of the building they retired for the present, after having only broken the windows. Having proceeded to Bradford Moor, they were joined by a reinforcement of two hundred men, and encouraged by this accession to their numbers, they returned to the mill between eight and nine o'clock, but the Riot Act having been read they dispersed for the night. The next day was passed in tolerable tranquillity. On Wednesday, May 3rd, another meeting was held on Fairweather Green, this meeting was attended by a considerable number of the weavers, and the persons assembled increased their mutual animosity against the denounced machinery by inflammatory speeches and communications. About four o'clock they moved in a body to Mr. Horsfall's mill, and they again broke the windows, just repaired after the previous assault. It was evidently the intention of the rioters to gain admission to the mill, and there can be no doubt that their object was to destroy the whole of the machinery. Mr. Horsfall, however, had taken precautions which effectually frustrated the attempt, he had placed iron bars before all the lower windows of the manufactory, and had secured the doors by strong planks, so that it was impossible without instruments, of which the rioters were destitute, to force an entrance. Colonel Plumbe Tempest, one of the magistrates of the district, attended by a number of special constables, at length appeared upon the ground, and read the riot act; the people were not intimidated; they continued throwing stones into the windows, and one of them fired a pistol into the mill. This last outrage shewed to the persons collected for the defence of the place, that it was high time to act in self defence, they fired twenty or thirty shots among the mob, by which a young man and a boy were killed, and a great many were severely wounded. The rioters dispersed with trepidation, but two of the most active persons among them were apprehended, and were sent to York Castle for trial. These violent tumults did the cause of the workpeople the greatest possible injury. The masters instead of being intimidated, became more desirous than ever to relieve themselves from the dictation which had been assumed by the people, and the power machinery, against which such prejudice prevailed through the whole district, was more

generally adopted to the great diminution of the demand for manual labour.

The commercial importance and the increasing population of the town of Bradford demanded, when the Reform Act was introduced to the legislature by the Grey ministry, that it should be placed in the first rank of boroughs, and that it should return two representatives to parliament. It was evident, some time before the election, that a contest would take place. Mr. Hardy, late the Recorder of Leeds, and Mr. Lister, a resident in the borough, came forward at an early period; and Mr. Banks, a most respectable merchant, and one of the aldermen of Leeds, was induced to become a candidate upon the requisition of a great number of the electors, who justly admired his character, and had all possible confidence in his integrity and abilities. The borough of Bradford, it should be stated, does not comprise the whole parish, like the borough of Leeds, but only includes the townships of Bradford, Manningham, Horton, and Bowling. Mr. Horsfall, the returning officer, appointed Thursday, December 18, 1832, for the day of nomination, and it was arranged that in the event of a contest, the polling should commence on the following day at nine o'clock—the booth for Bradford and Manningham being arranged to be in the Piece Hall, and that for Horton and Bowling at a house in Tyrrell Court, adjoining the town's office. It became pretty evident that Messrs. Hardy and Lister would be returned; for although Mr. Banks was very respectably supported, the exertions of his friends were diminished by the little anxiety he evinced about the election, and he lost a considerable portion of the popular favour by not attending the great West Riding meeting at Wakefield, when Lord Grey's administration had resigned. The day of nomination was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and the whole town speedily assumed an appearance of unwonted liveliness and bustle. At twelve o'clock the returning officer, accompanied by Mr. Hardy and Mr. Banks, and by the friends of Mr. Lister, who was unfortunately confined by indisposition to his room, appeared on the steps in front of the Piece Hall, from which very eligible situation the speakers addressed the assembly. Mr. Charles Harris proposed Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Hollins seconded the nomination. Mr. Hardy then addressed the electors, but was repeatedly interrupted by some of the people. Mr. John Hustler, Jun. proposed Mr. Banks, and Mr. James Garnet seconded the nomination.

Mr. Banks then delivered his sentiments to the electors. Mr. R. Margerison proposed Mr. Lister, and Mr. M. Peacock seconded the nomination. Mr. John Wood, Jun. and the Rev. Messrs. Boddington and Bull proposed questions to the candidates relative to taxation, the factory bill, a revision of the poor laws in England, and the establishment of them in Ireland. The answers given to these questions was highly satisfactory. When the shew of hands took place a very decided majority appeared for Mr. Lister. The numbers were so nearly equal between Mr. Hardy and Mr. Banks, that a second shew was called for, which the returning officer announced to be in favour of Mr. Lister and Mr. Hardy, and he accordingly declared them to be duly elected. Mr. John Hustler then demanded a poll on behalf of Mr. Banks, which was granted. On Friday morning the poll commenced, but Mr. Banks found it unavailing to struggle with the decisive majority against him. The contest was soon decided in favour of his opponents. Mr. Lister and Mr. Hardy were declared duly elected, and have assumed their seats in the imperial legislature. Bradford has every reason to be gratified with her representatives, and there is little doubt that the possession of the elective franchise will be a great benefit to the town.

The disgraceful violence and acrimony by which contested elections have been too often distinguished in other places, were unknown in Bradford with very few exceptions, and the public approbation is demanded by the manner in which the contest was commenced, was conducted, and was terminated.

The importance of Bradford thus recognised by the legislature is still progressively increasing—it is in vain perhaps to expect that the town will ever rival either in magnitude or population its great neighbour Leeds—but there is little doubt that in the course of a few years Bradford will be one of the first places in the British empire for opulence, prosperity, and intelligence. We devoutly wish it all happiness and success—may its manufactures ever flourish, may its masters ever obtain both markets and remuneration, and its operatives be able to maintain themselves in credit and in comfort upon the produce of honourable industry!

During the course of last year Bradford, like almost every other town in the district, was visited by that tremendous scourge the Asiatic cholera. But though its ravages were tremendous about three miles to the north east, in the neighbourhood of Idle

and Apperley Bridge, the town itself suffered very little, the alarm of the inhabitants gradually subsided, and towards the close of the year the disease entirely disappeared.

The appearance of Bradford from a distance is very striking. Perhaps the most imposing view of the town is from the hill above Horton, on the road from Halifax. Although part of the town is built in a very low situation, other parts gradually rise upon the surface of the surrounding acclivities, which thus permit the display of almost every building in the place. It is true that the interior of the town is very dirty, very irregular, and very unpleasing, but an immense number of excellent houses, sometimes beautifully situated, some of them of aspect almost approaching to magnificence, most of them surrounded with pleasant grounds, and all of them indicating the comfort, opulence, and respectability of their owners, rise in every direction about the town, and attest the laudable enterprise and justly merited success of the inhabitants. Bradford church, from the lower parts of the town, is a very imposing object. Placed on a commanding eminence, the lofty tower which has defied the storms of war as well as the tempests of the atmosphere raises its venerable head, and the whole edifice, since its recent repairs, displays the piety of past and the munificence of modern times. It may here be remarked that the country in the neighbourhood of Bradford is by no means pleasant when compared with the tracts within a few miles of it. Letting alone the predominance of manufactures, and the nuisances which are almost always to be found in countries abounding with coal, the summits of the hills are so bleak, the air is so cold, the climate is so variable, and the soil is often so wretched, that the prospect, as such, by no means inspires agreable emotions, nor would the neighbourhood ever be regarded as an eligible scene of permanent residence, were it not for the character of the inhabitants and the vast importance of the trade.

POPULATION OF BRADFORD TOWN.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
6,393	7,767	13,064	23,233

BOWLING, BIERLEY, ECCLESHILL, AND MANNINGHAM.

The above are the only townships in the parish of Bradford which come within the limits of our district, and nothing can be related with reference to two of them of sufficient interest to require record in the present work.

BOWLING, formerly called BOLLING, was the seat of an ancient family of the same name, which retained possession of it until the reign of Henry VIII. When that monarch swayed the sceptre of England, Rosamond, the daughter and heiress of Tristram Bolling, the last male descendant of this branch of the family, married Sir Richard Tempest of Bracewell, and conveyed to the Tempests Bolling with the manors of Thornton and Denholme, and other lands in Clayton and Oxenhope. In the time of the civil wars, Richard Tempest, who had embraced the cause of the King, and who had imbibed the spirit of dissipation and debauchery which was characteristic of too many of the cavaliers, sold this estate to Henry Savile, Esq. of Thornhill Green. Eight years after the Restoration, this gentleman disposed of it to Francis Lindley, Esq. of Grays Inn, in whose family it remained until it descended, seventy-three years ago, to Francis Pigot, Esq. the heir at law; he disposed of it to Captain Charles Wood, of the royal navy, who died of a wound he received in a battle with the French in 1782. The estate then descended to his son, Sir Francis Wood, Bart. of whom the manor was purchased by Messrs. Sturgess, Paley, and Mason.

Bowling Hall is one of the most remarkable, one of the most majestic, and one of the most interesting houses in the district. At each end of the south front, is a square tower which cannot have been built later than the time of the Plantagenets, while the erection of the rest of the building may be assigned to the reign of Henry VIII. The more recent part of the house, which is interposed between the two towers we have named, has two

projecting bows with embayed windows, and between them is the hall, an apartment ten yards long, on the windows of which are numerous shields and coats of arms procured from a variety of places by one of the owners, and here placed in promiscuous confusion. One of these bearings, beneath which are inscribed in black letters "Our Lady the King's Mother," is supposed to have referred to Lady Margaret of Richmond, mother to Henry VII. If the reader will turn to page 56, he will find an account of the apparition which is said to have displayed itself in this hall to the Marquess of Newcastle, by which the sacking of Bradford and the slaughter of the inhabitants, which were to have taken place the next day, were prevented. The immense iron works at Bowling, from their proximity to the great road between Bradford and Leeds, are generally known to travellers, and nothing that we can say can add to the reputation of the inestimable manufactures which are carried on in this extensive and important establishment.

POPULATION OF BOWLING.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
2,055	2,226	3,579	5,958

NORTH BIERLEY is a very populous straggling manufacturing village south east from Bradford, with a chapel of Ease, of which an account will be given in another place. Bierley Hall is remarkable as having been the residence of Richard Richardson, M. D. whose learning and accomplishments procured for him the acquaintance of many of the most distinguished literary men of his day, and whose acquirements and character will elevate him to a high rank in our list of the eminent individuals produced by the district. This hall is also distinguished as being the place where the second hothouse in the north of England was constructed, and where one of the first cedars of Lebanon ever brought to England was planted. This beautiful tree has sprung from a seedling sent by the celebrated Sir Hans Sloane to Dr. Richardson, and has long furnished a magnificent specimen of its species. Considerable caution was at first used in its culture, upon the supposition that the climate of England was too cold for its prosperity. It was forgotten that the cedars of Lebanon grow in their indigneous condition and primitive station at a very considerable elevation above the level of the sea, and

consequently in a temperature rather lower than otherwise than that of this country. Two other cedars, but of inferior size, grow in the immediate neighbourhood of this giant of the forest. The most valuable of the literary treasures amassed by Dr. Richardson were removed many years ago to Eshton, the seat of his great grand-daughter Miss Currer, who has inherited not only the property, but the taste of her relative.

POPULATION OF NORTH BIERLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
3,820	4,766	6,070	7,254

Of ECCLESHILL and MANNINGHAM it is unnecessary to say more, than that they are both situated to the north and north east of Bradford, that their inhabitants are generally active, laborious, and prosperous manufacturers, and that in the neighbourhood of Leeds and Bradford, the great emporiums of the cloth and stuff trades, they have every facility for advantageously disposing of the produce of their indefatigable diligence.

POPULATION OF ECCLESHILL.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1,351	1,608	2,176	2,570

POPULATION OF MANNINGHAM.

1,357	1,596	2,474	3,564

In order to subserve the convenience of reference, and to exhibit clearly the rapid progress which the parish of Bradford has made in population, we shall add in this place a statement of the population of each of its townships besides those we have mentioned, although not within the limits of our district.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Allerton, ...	809	1,093	1,488	1,733
Clayton, ...	2,040	2,469	3,609	4,469
Haworth, ...	3,164	3,971	4,668	5,835
Heaton,.....	951	1,088	1,217	1,452
Horton,.....	3,549	4,423	7,192	10,782
Shipley,.....	1,008	1,214	1,606	1,926
Thornton,.....	2,474	3,016	4,100	5,968
Wilsden, ...	913	1,121	1,711	2,252

Total population of the parish of Bradford, 76,996.

CHAPTER V.

THE PARISHES OF OTLEY, HAREWOOD, AND ADDLE.

OTLEY.

Lovely for situation indeed is Otley, in one of the most delightful vallies in the kingdom, with the romantic elevation of of Almscliff in the north, and the bold ridge of the Cheven in the south, with a beautiful river meandering through luxurial corn fields, verdant pastures, and fertile meadows, surrounded on every side with numerous magnificent seats, with all their accompaniments of woods and parks, with no chimnies of vast mills polluting the atmosphere and defiling the prospect with their clouds of sable vapour, and presenting in every direction a most animating scene of agricultural opulence and industry. The valley of the Wharf a little above Otley changes its character; instead of the rugged and romantic grandeur, the wildness and sublimity which characterise the neighbourhood of Barden Tower and Bolton, it here assumes a softened appearance of general fertility and beauty, and the hills by which it is bounded gradually diminish in elevation, and assume less marked and prominent outlines, until they finally disappear in the great plain of the Ouse. Of this locality the poet Gray has given the following account. "I passed through Long Addingham; Ilkley distinguished by a lofty brow of loose rocks to the right; Burley a neat and pretty village among trees; on the opposite side of the river lay Middleton Lodge belonging to a Catholic gentleman of that name; Weston, a venerable stone fabric with large offices of Mr. Vavasour, the meadows in front gradually descending to the water, and behind a great and shady wood; Farneley, a place like the last but larger, and rising higher by the side of the hill. Otley is a large airy town, with clean but low rustic buildings, and a bridge over

the Wharf. I went into its spacious Gothic church which has been new roofed with a flat stucco ceiling; in a corner is a monument of Thomas Lord Fairfax and Helen Aske, his lady, descended from the Cliffords and Latimers, as her epitaph says; the figures are ill cut, particularly his in armour but bareheaded on the tomb. I take them to be the parents of the famous Sir Thomas Fairfax.*

Two derivations have been given of the name Otley; it is said that the plain and evident meaning of the word is, the field of Oats, because oats were cultivated to a great extent in the neighbourhood; and it is also said that from the ancient spelling of the word, *Othelai*, it must mean the field of Otho, a personal appellation not uncommon in England both before and after the Conquest. We confess that however inclined we may be to the latter derivation, we think that the former has equal claims upon reception, some of the words in Doomsday Book referring to this parish and its neighbouring villages being so misspelt, as to prove either that the names have undergone some very great mutation, or that they were carelessly written. And here we shall deviate from our usual plan by giving instead of the very words of the long entry concerning this place in Doomsday Book, an accurate analysis and illustration of it in the language of a distinguished topographer and antiquary. "Othelai, its district and subordinates, described as extending in two directions nine miles, and therefore abating irregularities containing eighty-one square miles, contained the present parish of Otley, that of Weston, of Guiseley, with the exception of the towns of Horsforth, Rawden, and Yeadon, which are surveyed under the Terra Regis, and of part of the parish of Ilkley, including Middleton and Stubham. Hawkesworth and Menston are mentioned as Hewksworth and Mensintune, and a place called Bicherton has perished. In the Confessor's reign this entire district had been rated to the geld at sixty ploughs, the annual value being ten pounds; at the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, and evidently in consequence of his devastations, it was reduced to thirty-five ploughs, and by a proportion not easily accounted for unless grain were greatly depreciated, to the rent of three pounds. The Archbishop of York was paramount lord of the whole; but as there is no mention of a castle or its certain accompaniment the *burgenses*, he appears to have had only a temporary manor house in Otley,

* Mason's Mem. of Gray, p. 379.

where he had two carucates in demesne, together with five villains and nine bordarii immediately dependent on himself. There was a church and a priest, and one villain or free tenant holding under him, and one plough. It was so nearly waste, that though there might be thirty-five ploughs, yet thirteen only were in actual use. The arable land is described, though probably with no great exactness, as equal to four square miles, or two thousand five hundred and forty acres. Now if by arable land be meant the land actually under the plough, this divided by thirteen will give somewhat more than one hundred and seventy acres to the carucate; if it be divided by thirty-five, the number of ploughs which might be so occupied, it will reduce the carucate to about seventy acres. Only four acres of meadow are accounted for, a proof that cattle in general were not housed in winter. There were five sochmen in the whole soke, who may be considered as mesne lords holding under the archbishop, and having under themselves four villanes and nine bordarii, that is free tenants of different denominations perhaps, rather than widely different ranks. To make up the account of eighty-one square miles, abating for irregularities, we have four of land, only three of moor, of (surely much too small a proportion) wood pasture about eight miles; in all fifteen; so that there remains for brushwood which had overgrown the country after it had been laid waste by the Conqueror, sixty-six square miles with the same abatement, in this single district. Had these incurious surveyors fortunately exceeded their commission in a single point, we should probably have been told that this fertile and beautiful district, thus reduced to almost a state of nature, was beginning again to be stocked by wolves and other beasts of prey.

We have given this admirable analysis of a very obscure, and in fact unintelligible, notice in Doomsday Book, because it illustrates some peculiarities in early national manners, and the distinctions which prevailed among different occupiers of land at the time of the Conquest; because it affords one of the most impressive illustrations we meet with in the history of the district of the horrible effects of ambition and war; and because, by exhibiting the contrast between a region overrun with briars and probably abounding with predatory animals, and a region now cultivated to the highest possible pitch of agricultural industry and skill, it evinces the infinitely superior happiness, order, and intelligence of the times in which we live.

That the spirit of improvement began at a very early period to operate in the neighbourhood of Otley, is demonstrated by the foundation and endowment of dependent churches, which would scarcely have been attempted and could not have been accomplished, had not the population increased in numbers, and the resources of the soil been elicited by active and pretty general industry.

A long chasm occurs after the Conquest in the history of Otley, of which not a trace of information can be collected. When Kirkby's Inquest was taken in 1287 it was returned that the Archbishop of York held half a fee in Otley, and in the Nomina Villarum, taken twenty-nine years afterwards, the Archbishop is also returned as lord. From that period to the present day the Archbishops of York have retained their supremacy and influence in the town, they exercise both a civil and ecclesiastical authority, and they give their commissions to the magistrates who administer justice in the locality. To these prelates the manor was given in the first instance by King Athelstan.

Of the old manor house not a vestige remains, although the site is still denoted by the name; when the present mansion was built, some very old and very strong foundations were taken up which indubitably belonged to the ancient building. The kitchens at this place were built by the celebrated Archbishop Bowet, who, says Dr. Whitaker, "in consequence consumed at Otley some portion of the fourscore tons of claret, with a proportionate quantity of other elements of hospitality, (the doctor should have added debauchery,) which he is said to have annually expended."* This bibacious prelate died 1423. Whether any of the Archbishops afterwards dispensed in this town the contents of their wine cellars and larders, does not appear; no doubt the hungry and thirsty inhabitants of Otley regretted their departure, and lamented that they were doomed to bear the trappings of archiepiscopal authority, while they were deprived of all participation in archiepiscopal luxury.

Of ancient buildings in Otley the only intelligence which can be communicated is, that there was a hospital for lepers here in the reign of Edward II. but the building has long since disappeared.

The most interesting circumstance connected with the history

* Loid and Elm. 191. Drake's Ebor. 440.

of Otley is, that the woollen manufacture was once established here; and it must have been conducted to some considerable extent, since it was fostered under the patronage of the Company of Merchant Adventurers. Of this company or society some account will be given in our Commercial History. It will be sufficient here to state, that the English Association appears to have been formed after the model of one of the same name which existed at Bruges so early as the fourteenth century, and that when a Board of Trade was established by James I. it obtained by patent the sole commerce of the woollen manufacture. Otley was no doubt the great emporium for the Craven wool, of which large quantities were procured at a very early period. So early as the reign of Edward I. wool in Craven was an article of commerce, and sold for six pounds a sack of twenty-six stones, fourteen pounds to the stone. It may be mentioned as a curious fact, that at the same time, and in the same country, the price of a cow was only 7s. 4d. and that a labourer only received a penny a day. We find that the woollen manufacturers at Otley had the right of erecting their tenters before the premises in Cross Green. But this town was most disadvantageously situated for the purposes of trade, the station was remote, there was a scanty supply of fuel, the river was not navigable, and the whole manufacture was soon removed to districts where there was a larger quantity of coal and more eligible natural capabilities.

The market at Otley is of very ancient institution, and is one of the best in the county. On each Friday, the market day, an immense number of cattle, calves, and sheep are sold, principally to the dealers and butchers of Leeds, and very considerable quantities of corn are disposed of to supply the wants of the populous manufacturing districts to the south. The fairs at Otley are held on the first Monday after August 2nd, and on the Friday between old and new Martinmas days. The scene on the market days at Otley is usually of the most lively and animating description, and a greater extent of business is transacted than in any other town of similar extent in this part of the country. The hill called the Chevin is the most remarkable object from the town; the name signifies "the ridge of hills;" the road, which was formerly very precipitous and dangerous, is now so much improved as to have lost all its terrors to strangers; and the prospect from the summit, comprising the beautiful woods and park of Farneley and the lovely fertility of the valley of the Wharf, is one of the

most striking and delightful in the kingdom. Some years ago one of the most astonishing feats of muscular strength and agility was performed on this hill which ever was accomplished, and which redounded but little to the honour of the sanity of the agent—a Leeds butcher, for a very trifling wager, literally hopped up the whole acclivity, extending nearly a mile, without being killed by his exertions.

POPULATION OF OTLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
2,332	2,602	3,065	3,161

Although FARNELEY is not included within the limits we have assigned to our researches, we shall briefly allude to it as one of the greatest ornaments of the country, and we shall deviate from our usual order by giving some account of the family which for so many generations has resided within its walls. The hall stands on the declivity of the hill to the north of Otley, and commands a magnificent view of the Chevin and of the valley. The old mansion was built in the time of Elizabeth, and the modern house, which is distinguished by commodiousness and magnificence, was built by Walter Ramsden Beaumont Hawksworth, of Hawksworth, Esq. who assumed the name and arms of Fawkes, pursuant to the will of Francis Fawkes, Esq. who, in 1786, left him the estate. The family of the Fawkeses, we are informed, bore the name de Farneley from the origin of local sirnames, but Falcasius de Farneley in the reign of Henry III. had a son who adopted the patronymic filius Falcasii or Fawkes—the son of Fawkes—and transmitted the name to his posterity. We shall only state further at present, that this family has long occupied a station of eminence in the county, that it has intermarried with some of the most honourable families, and that its members have frequently discharged the functions of the High Shrievalty with credit to themselves and advantage to the public. The late Walter Ramsden Fawkes, Esq. was elected member for the county, and was distinguished by the liberality of his principles, the power of his eloquence, and the fervour of his patriotism.

BRAMHOPE.

THIS township derives its name from "the narrow valley", or *hope* of Braam, a personal name, which, says the author of

Loidis and Elmete,* "enters into the composition of several other local appellations in this country, as Bramham, Bramley, &c." This place is mentioned in the following terms in Doomsday Book, among the lands of Gislebert Tison. "In Bramhop, Ulchil had eight carucates of land to be taxed. There is land to four ploughs. The same now has it of Gislebert, but it is waste. Coppice wood half a mile long and two quarentens broad. The whole manor one mile long and one broad; value in King Edward's time fifty shillings." Bramhope then did not form a part of the possessions of the Archbishops of York, and though no mention is made in the notice above, of any inhabitants, and though the whole township was in a state of devastation, the land would seem in the time of the Confessor to have been both cultivated and productive. After various changes, which cannot easily be described, and which are in themselves very unimportant, the manor of Bramhope was purchased of Henry, Earl of Cumberland, by the Dineleys, with whom it has since remained, and of whom an account will be found in another place. Bramhope will occupy a rather prominent place in our ecclesiastical history, as furnishing almost the only example which can be discovered of the establishment and endowment of an episcopal chapel during the government of the parliament and of Cromwell.

POPULATION OF BRAMHOPE.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
261	318	366	359

POOLE.

Of this chapelry no further account can be given in this place, than that it is mentioned in Doomsday Book by the name of *Pouele*, as being part of the possessions of the Archbishop of York. Its chapel we shall elsewhere refer to.

POPULATION OF POOLE.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
182	204	294	315

We lament that the adherence to our plan which it is necessary for us to observe, that the present work may not exceed the bulk which is assigned to it, will not allow us to refer to several

* Loid. and Elm. 197. † Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 193.

interesting objects which the extensive parish of Otley presents to topographical investigation. Esholt, famed for its nunnery founded in the twelfth century—Baildon, a populous and thriving manufacturing village—Menston, situated in rural seclusion on the eastern declivity of the mountain of Rumbold's Moor—Ilkley, the Olicana of the Romans, of which we have already spoken, now rising into the prosperity of a frequented watering-place, and celebrated for the extreme coldness and consequent utility of its remarkable spring—Denton, adorned with the elegant seat of the Ibbetsons, and formerly the residence of the Fairfaxes, whose most distinguished hero, Sir Thomas Fairfax, has occupied so much attention in the preceding history—Burley, singularly beautiful in situation and appearance—and Weston, with its interesting hall, the seat of the ancient and respectable family of the Vavasours, are all beyond the limits of our district, and whatever may be our reluctance, we are compelled to pass them by without further observation. The manners of the residents in this parish, almost entirely rural, are far more polished and pleasant than those of the inhabitants of the districts to the south and south west; and though their general information may not be so extensive, and although their intellectual faculties may not be so improved by the constant exercise which is involved in manufacturing and commercial pursuits, they are as respectable and as useful a body of individuals as can be found in the county, and contribute by their general spirit and deportment to render their neighbourhood as agreeable for a visit, and as eligible for a permanent residence, as can be found in any province of the kingdom.

We may mention, in closing this account of the neighbourhood of Otley, that the impetuous Wharf, swollen by tempests among the mountains along which it flows, has frequently rolled down such a vast volume of water as to produce immense mischief in the valley and the town. The most tremendous flood ever known at Otley took place in the year 1673, when considerable property was destroyed, and houses, cattle, implements of husbandry, and agricultural produce, were irrecoverably swept away.

In the year 1826, one of the most singular scenes was presented in this neighbourhood which was ever witnessed in England. A long drought and unusually sultry weather had prevailed to such a degree, that even in the midst of the hay harvest prayers were offered up in the churches and other places

of worship for rain. In the month of July, it was discovered by vast clouds of smoke darkening the atmosphere and exciting astonishment from afar, that several of the vast moors which cover the hills of this district were on fire, and there is little doubt that the astounding conflagration was produced by lightning. Hawksworth Moor, Rombalds Moor, Burley Moor, and other tracts of a similar description, were all at the same time in a state of ignition, and the flames and vapours presented an appearance which had all the characters of sublimity. On one memorable day, the heavens were obscured with lurid clouds, the smoke rolled in dense volumes into the vallies, the inhabitants were filled with consternation, and, unable to penetrate the darkness which superseded the light of day, they began, as is usual in such cases, to entertain the most dismal apprehensions. After a tremendous elemental war, torrents of rain extinguished the fires, the tempest dispelled both the vapours and the fears of the people, but a considerable property was destroyed. The awful appearance of the heavens and the earth on this portentous occasion, has been described to the writer in the most vivid colours by the persons who witnessed it, and reminded those of them who had been in other zones, of the most appalling phenomena of tropical storms. *

* It is a curious fact that Leland, and after him Camden, have barely mentioned the town of Otley. This can only be accounted for by supposing that in their time it was a mere appendage to the archiepiscopal residence, to the church, and to the habitations of the surrounding gentry. Leland contents himself by simply saying, "Seven miles above Harewood is Oteley where there is a bridge of stone over the Wharf." Lel. 1. 48. Camden says, "lower down lies Otley, a town belonging to the Archbishop of York, remarkable for nothing but the high cliff, called the Cheven, under which it is situate." The ridge of a mountain is called Cheven in British, whence that continued ridge of mountains in France which formerly used the same language with the Britons was named Geneva and Gehenna (the Cevenues.) Cam. III. 7.

THE PARISH OF ADDLE.

Of Addle, as a Roman station, we have already given an extended description to which we must refer our readers, (see p. 20.) There is little doubt but that the commonly received etymology of the word Adhill, or the hill of Ada, the first Saxon possessor, is correct. In Doomsday Book Addle is reckoned as part of the lands of the Earl of Morton, and the following account is given of it. "In Adell the same Alward had one manor of one carucate and a half to be taxed where there may be two ploughs. Richard has it, and it is waste. Wood pasture one mile long and one broad. The whole manor one mile and a half long and one mile broad. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings. It is now waste."* It appears that whatever might have been the condition of this neighbourhood in the time of the Romans and of the Saxons, it was reduced to a state of utter desolation by the Normans, and, with the exception of Arthington, shortly to be mentioned, to have been entirely destitute of inhabitants. It is melancholy to refer to a place where Roman arts and civilization were cherished, where Roman power and magnificence were displayed, and where Saxon devotion has reared one of the most exquisitely beautiful monuments to be found in the British empire, and to perceive that there was not one single person to be found, at the period of which we are speaking, to testify to its ancient grandeur or to attempt the improvement of its actual capabilities. Our reference to the authority of Doomsday Book will not be complete unless we give another notice from that valuable compilation, of a manor adjoining to that of Addle, and which contained no doubt the site of the ancient Roman town whose name it barbarously perpetuates. "In Burghduru the same Alward had one manor without a hall, of two carucates to be taxed and there may be two ploughs. Richard has it. Meadow and coppice wood three acres. The whole manor four

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 85.

quarentens long and the same broad. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings. It is now waste."* The name given in this passage is a corruption of Burgodunum, the Roman appellation of the place of which we have spoken in the place alluded to above. It would seem from the erection of the church, that the condition of Addle began to improve soon after the Conquest. For without invading our ecclesiastical department we may observe, that notwithstanding the absurd and oft repeated suppositions that this most remarkable edifice was of Saxon or even of Roman architecture, it is most satisfactorily proved by a grant still extant of William Painell of lands in Addle to the monks of Kirkstall, that the church was built about the commencement of the twelfth century. And that Burghduru, at the time of the erection of this church, was a populous village, is almost certain from the situation of the church itself, at the southern extremity of the parish, which would hardly have been selected for the building had it not been to afford convenience to the inhabitants. The charter of William Painell, which has been preserved by Stevens, runs in these words, "William Painell gives and grants to God, St. Mary, and the monks of Kirkstall Abbey, the lands which I gave to them in pure alms, &c. in the parish of Adell—" viz. the lands which the villanes of the same parish gave to the church at Adell when dedicated throughout all the parish. The possessions of these monks rapidly extended. The account of this progress, as it is given by the same author, will be interesting to the antiquarian reader. A family of the name of Mustell, it appears, held Addle under the Painells. By a charter without date, but certainly very early, Roger Mustell gave to the house at Kirkstall the barony of Cookridge, or as it is spelt Cokryge, with the mill and all other appurtenances. William Mustell, son of Roger, gave to the same house the entire soke of Adell with the advowson of the church and all the services of the freeholders in the soke with wards, reliefs, &c.—half a knights fee from the lordship of Arthington, from the lordship of Brerehaugh, &c." Several other grants are there enumerated, from which it appears that nearly the whole parish ultimately became the property, or was under the controul, of this affluent religious incorporation.

There is one curious notice in these grants which will be rather interesting to the reader. It has been already stated that the vicinity of Leeds abounds in excellent springs, most of which,

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, see p. 241. † Mon. Ang. iii. 46.

according to the superstitious custom of the age, were dedicated to some patron saint, and we have already seen that some of them bore the name of St. Helena. A spring at Addle, which is still held in deserved estimation, bears the same name and was dedicated to the same saint. "From Andrew," says the charter, "the son of Henry de Adyll, they received a rent of two-pence for an acre and a half lying ad fontem Sc'e Elene."

We have described at some length the interesting Roman remains which have been discovered at Addle, and which prove its former importance and perhaps magnificence, (see p. 20). In the lapse of long ages that importance has entirely disappeared, Addle now scarcely deserves the name of a village, but it is one of the most delightful places in the kingdom, the glebe was beautifully laid out by Mr. Hardcastle, the last incumbent but one, the church yard is kept in the most excellent order, and the whole scene presents a picture of rural tranquillity and seclusion strikingly opposed to the bustle of that manufacturing district on whose very verge it is situated.

COOKRIDGE.

This place is mentioned in Doomsday Book in the following terms. "In Cucherie, the same Alward had one manor of three carucates to be taxed, where there may be now two ploughs. Richard has it. Wood pasture three quarentens long and the same broad. The whole manor half a mile long and three quarentens broad. Value in King Edwards time twenty shillings. It is now waste."* The reader is referred to p. 21 for an account of the antiquities at this place. In the time of Alexander, the first abbot of Kirkstall, Cookridge became part of the possessions of that Abbey, and continued to be its property until the dissolution. No further particulars worthy of repetition can be recorded concerning it. Cookridge Hall, the seat of Richard Wormald, Esq. is most beautifully situated and is one of the most desirable residences in the district. Cookridge has been mentioned by Thoresby as celebrated in his time for the noble and pleasant walks in geometrical lines, constructed by Mr. Kirke, one of the fellows of the Royal Society, at that time the owner of the estate. It would indeed be difficult to conceive of a place more desirable for the residence of a philosopher, a lover of nature, or a poet.

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 85.

The only drawback from the quiet of the hall is, that it is too near the high road from Leeds to Otley. After the decease of Mr. Kirk it was purchased by Sheffield Duke of Buckingham, and afterwards passed to the collateral line of Sir John Sheffield. The wood through which Mr. Kirk, with strange want of taste, drew his geometrical lines, has long since been permitted to assume its natural appearance. The modern improvements about the place have greatly contributed to its beauty.

BREAREY

Is a little hamlet formerly spelt Brerehagh, signifying "the briar hedge." It is only remarkable for having given name to a very ancient family which resided here some centuries, but which has long since disappeared.

ECCUP

Is another small hamlet, of which we can only say that it is described in Doomsday Book as among the possessions of the Earl of Morton in the following terms. "In Echope, the same Alward had one manor without a hall, of one carucate to be taxed, which one plough may till. Richard has there three acres of meadow. Wood not pasture three quarentens long and two broad. The whole manor one mile long and half a mile broad. Value in King Edwards time ten shillings. It is now waste."* The name Eccup means "the narrow valley of oaks." It formerly belonged to the Arthingtons, but is now the property of the Earl of Harewood. The single reference to this place we have met with is, that Frebarn de Ecop gave to the monks at Kirkstall one acre of land, and that a person designated Richard Attesche gave two oxgangs in "Ecopp."

ARTHINGTON.

WHATEVER may be the rural seclusion of Addle and the pleasantness of Cookridge, Arthington exceeds them both in picturesque beauty, looking upon the valley of the Wharf, and commanding a truly lovely prospect. At the time of the Doomsday survey, Arthington belonged to the Earl of Morton. It is mentioned in the following terms. "In Hardinetone, Alward had one manor of three carucates, and two oxgangs and a half to be taxed, where there may now be three ploughs. Richard has

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, ub. sup.

it of the Earl. There is there one villane ploughing with two oxen, and there are two acres of meadow. Wood pasture two quarentens long and two broad. The whole manor one mile long and four quarentens broad. Value in King Edward's time thirty shillings, now five shillings."* Can there be a more striking and melancholy illustration of the dreadful desolation to which this part of the country was reduced in the time of the Conqueror, than the fact that in one complete parish, containing highly valuable and productive land, and displaying every capability for the support of a numerous population, mention is made of only one inhabitant ploughing with two oxen! This is a circumstance particularly deserving of record—such are the results of ambition and war!

Arthington was the seat of the very ancient family of the same name, distinguished by their superstitious reverence for the papal ecclesiastics, and their absurd and lavish munificence to religious houses. The description of this family by Dr. Whitaker is so truly characteristic and amusing that it would be unpardonable not to extract it. That learned topographer says—"The Arthingtons in the twelfth century were a *devout* and *munificent* family, for besides their benefactions to Kirkstall Abbey, already mentioned, in which by a *disinterested generosity* they preferred to see the flocks of the religious grazing on the brow in front of the manor house rather than their own, they amortized another portion of their demesnes for the endowment of a house of nuns."† What high and holy qualities has the doctor here attributed to this family—devotion—munificence—and disinterested generosity? And why are they thus applauded? Because they were so strangely besotted as to alienate their own lands to lazy monks and card playing‡ nuns so completely, that the very fields they beheld, and the cattle that grazed in front of their own mansion, they could not call their own. Truly it was, that in the estimation of Dr. Whitaker, attachment to an established church covered a multitude of sins. About the middle of the twelfth century, Piers de Arthington gave a site and demesnes for a house of Cluniac or Benedictine nuns, and the gift was augmented by Serlo his son. Of the dimensions, of the appearance, of the materials of this nunnery, not a single trace can be

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, ut. sup. † Loid and Elm. 181.

‡ It will soon be seen that this appellation is not misapplied.

found, not a fragment has been suffered to remain. There is not a stone of any description to be found which can be concluded to have belonged to this ecclesiastical structure. From an entry in an award to which we shall shortly allude, it appears that there must have been some confusion when this nunnery was founded —the award speaking of that foundation in connection with "heynous and horrible curseing of disturbance of the said nownree." It is impossible to ascertain to what circumstance this curious phraseology refers. We shall mention one fact in the history of this place which certainly affords an entertaining specimen of the ideas which were entertained six hundred years ago, of the blessedness attached to donations on behalf of religious houses. The celebrated Alice de Romille, not content with the foundation and endowment of Bolton Priory, conferred upon the nuns of Arthington one half of her lands in Helthwaite, and the liberty of fattening forty hogs in her wood of Swinden during harvest. And what was to be her reward for all this liberality? *she was permitted to nominate a nun!*—a proof that a nun was esteemed in that age to be, if we may use such an expression, the highest style of woman, the most happy as well as the most holy of her sex.

Concerning the recreations of the nuns of Arthington, some very curious particulars were communicated by the Rev. Mr. Adamson to the author of Loidis and Elmete. Although it does not form any part of our object in this work to meddle with such frivolous matters as these, we shall in this instance deviate from our rule. A box of what may be called ancient cards has been preserved, which are traditionally said to have belonged to the nuns of this place. They consist of thin circular pieces of beech, about four inches in lateral diameter, painted with various devices, and each inscribed in old English characters with some moral sentence. It is supposed that they were played in the manner of cards, and that their number was originally twelve. The reader will be able to ascertain the character of the inscriptions by the following examples:—

Thy Love that thou to one haste lentt.
In Labour loste thy Tyme was spent.

Thy Foos mutche griefe to the have wroughte,
And thy Destruction have they soughte.

Thy hautie mynde doth cause ye smarte,
And makes the sleape with carefull harte.

In Godlie trade ronne well thy race,
And from the poore torne nott thy face.

That we may do full justice to the subject, we must remark that our antiquary has ludicrously assigned with all becoming gravity some most ponderous reasons for believing that these cards did not belong to nuns. First—he says that one of the inscriptions is addressed "my sonne." If all that we have heard of the morals of these pious sisters be true, this can be no insuperable objection. Again, he says that there is not a tincture of popery about them, and that the metre and language are those of the earliest psalms—these are better, but still by no means conclusive reasons.—And the last is the most extraordinary of the whole.—"They speak of the temptations of the world, and particularly of disappointed love." Now we know of no two causes which are so likely to produce the madness which induces its unhappy subject to hide in the cell of the recluse, as those which are thus mentioned. At any rate, these cards form a curious relic, and the reader will not be displeased that we have alluded to them. But to return to our history.

The Arthingtons were not all of them so devoted to the interests of the papal hierarchy as the founders of their family, and they probably repined at the prodigality which had alienated the fairest portion of their patrimony in favour of ecclesiastics. One of them, John Arthington, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, attempted to regain possession of the demesnes of the nunnery, and commenced proceedings accordingly. The matter was referred to John Thwaites of Denton, a lawyer of considerable reputation in this part of the country at that period, and he published an award to which we have just referred, but which we cannot insert, confirming the nuns in the possession of their estates. On the dissolution, when Elizabeth Arthington with nine nuns surrendered the nunnery, A. D. 1540, the site was granted to Archbishop Cranmer. That site is still pointed out by a building now occupied as a farm house, which has long excited the attention of the few visitors who have repaired to this remote place, and which on the front door-way bears the date of 1585. There can be no doubt that this refers to the foundation of the house. The hall at Arthington, now the seat of W. G. Davy, Esq. is large, well built, and stands on a truly beautiful elevation on the river Wharf.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF ADDLE.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Addle, ... Cookridge, ... Brearey, ... Eccup, ...	606	652	699	703
Arthington, ...	360	344	329	360

THE PARISH OF HAREWOOD.

THE history of this most delightful and elegant village furnishes some highly interesting facts and narrations, and brings us into immediate contact with some of the most eminent men England has ever produced. The derivation of the name is obvious to every reader. In Doomsday Book it is enumerated among the lands of the King.—"In Harewoode with berewics, Tor, Sprot, and Grim, had ten carucates to be taxed. Land to five ploughs. Forty shillings." * By whom the castle was built it is impossible to ascertain; it most probably, however, owes its origin to one of the Romilles, and was undubitably erected soon after the Conquest. William de Meschines, brother of Ralph Earl of Chester, and Lord of Coupland in the county of Cumberland, married, about 1120, Cecilia Romille, lady of Skipton, Harewood, &c. and obtained through her possession of the castle at the latter place. Their daughter Avicia de Romille married William de Courci, Baron of Stoke Courci in the county of Somerset, and thus conveyed Harewood Castle to that great family. Their second son William de Courci came into possession of the castle; but his only son dying without issue, Harewood was conveyed by the marriage of Alicia de Courci to the Fitz Geralds. Margery Fitzgerald, who was given in marriage to Baldwin de Redvers in the reign of King John, took the estate to the family of her husband. Upon the failure of this family the castle passed to the De Lisles, then in the reign of Edward III. to the Aldboroughs, then to the Rythers, to the Gascoignes, to the Wentworths, and the succession of the possessors from the time when the castle and estate were purchased by Sir John Cutler, we shall describe in the order of our history. The castle itself must have been a very remarkable edifice; it was a strange deviation from the general custom of the Normans in building their stupendous fortifications; was never surrounded

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 34.

with exterior defences, it had no ballium, it had no keep, and it derived all its security as a fortification from the immense strength and thickness of its own walls. These circumstances have given a peculiar character to the castle, and must have materially diminished the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. In order to subserve their security, the windows of the great hall have been made so narrow as to resemble mere loop holes; and on account of there being no inner yard or area to which windows might open without the danger of admitting the missiles of an enemy, every apartment of the building is destitute of comfort and of light. A recess in the west wall has exercised the ingenuity of antiquarian observers—some of them insisting that it was intended for a tomb, and others that it was nothing more than an ancient sideboard. When doctors differ, who is to decide? We can only observe that the former supposition is out of the question, the latter is not exactly consistent with the manners of the middle ages, so that after all we must leave the question just where we found it. Over the principal entrance, which is to the north east, are the shields of Aldborough and Baliol, with the motto in old English characters, *vat sal be sal.* Gough says of this castle, and his accurate description renders every other unnecessary, "The castle, which Mr. King refers to the time of Edward I. and III. stands on the north side of a triple square entrenchment on the hill sloping down to the river. The innermost vallum on the south and west side is entire and high. It consists of a square centre, a north wing oblong, and two square towers at the south east and south west corners, all of four stones." He then refers to the arch in the hall upon which we animadvert above, and says, "The north apartment serves as a kitchen, and the great chimney yet remains. On the east side is a porch, having a double entrance defended by a portcullis.....The room over this porch was supposed to be the chapel in the time of Richard II." * It is impossible to give any adequate idea of the internal arrangements of this building without the aid of a plan; we can only observe, therefore, that the ruins form a very imposing object, the massy walls still remain in tolerable preservation, no inconsiderable proportion of them are covered with beautiful ivy, the situation of the castle on the brow of a hill sloping to the north is both commanding and pleasing, and the visitor looking to the north and north east,

* Gough, iii. 50.

beholds one of the most enchanting prospects which England can afford. Harewood castle is indubitably the most interesting remnant of feudal times remaining in the district.

Although the lords of Harewood castle, like all the feudal barons, no doubt had their petty feuds, their oppressions, and their crimes, only one event is recorded of them which interests from its historic importance. When Edward Baliol, that puppet of royalty, was driven out of Scotland by an indignant and patriotic people, he found a refuge at Harewood Castle, and the placing of his shield over the principal entrance was no doubt a compliment paid to the fugitive monarch by Sir William de Aldborough, the rebuilder of the castle. This fortress seems to have been in too dismantled a state in the time of the civil wars to be of use to either party as a place of defence. And when in 1656 the manor of Gawthorpe, and the estate connected with it were advertised to be sold, the building is thus described: "The castle of Harewood decayd, yet the stones thereof being much ashler, and the timber that is left fit for building an hansommer house, and may save a deal of charges in the stone work, or els if allowed to tenants of Harwood toune for repayres and building, would bee very usefull and necessary and servicable for that purpose, considering it is a market toune, therefore the castle may be well adjudged to be worth thirty pound. There is belonging to the same a very large barne." Old Camden thus communicates the result of his researches about Harewood: "Afterwards the river runs between banks of limestone by Harewood, where I saw a handsome and well fortified castle, which has often changed its lords by the vicissitudes of time. It formerly belonged to the Curceys, but came by their heiress Alice to Warin Fitzgerald who married her, whose daughter and coheiress Margery was given in marriage with the fine estate belonging to her to Baldwin de Rivers, Earl of Devon, who died before his father; afterwards to Falcasius de Brent by favour of King John, for his good services in pillaging. But upon the death of Isabella de Rivers without issue, this castle fell to Robert de Lisle, son of Warin, as kinsman and coheir; lastly by the family of Aldborrough it came to the Rithers. Nor must I forget that near this place is Gawthorpe, whence sprung the family of the Gascoign's, from Gascoigne in France, rendered very eminent for their antiquity and valour in these parts." *

* Camden, iii. 7.

Gawthorpe, which was situated in what is now the park at Harewood House, was never a distinct manor, although it gave name to a family which was seated there from a very early period. The heiress of the Gawthorpes conveyed the estate to the Gascoignes, and of this family was that celebrated Judge Gascoigne, who had the courage to commit to prison Henry V. when Prince of Wales, for insulting the majesty of the bench on behalf of one of his profligate companions. The Gascoignes appear to have superintended their affairs at Gawthorpe with so much prudence and success, that they were enabled to supplant the Rythers at the castle, and to unite into one possession the two adjoining estates. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Margaret, the only daughter and heiress of William Gascoigne, married Thomas Wentworth, of Wentworth Woodhouse, and their son, Sir Thomas Wentworth, possessed the Lordship of Gawthorpe, Harewood, Wike, East Keswick, &c. We have already (see p. 48,) stated how the celebrated son of this Sir Thomas, elevated to the peerage by the title of Lord Strafford, employed himself when residing at this beautiful house, before he commenced that career of ambition which was terminated on the scaffold. After his execution, the estate was advertised for sale, and was bought, with Ledstone, by Sir John Cutler and Sir John Lewis; on the partition of the purchase, Gawthorpe became the share of Cutler, who here displayed his avarice in every possible form of parsimonious meanness, and whose actions of despicably sordid baseness, are still commemorated in the traditions of the country. This man resided at Gawthorpe with a single servant, he regarded the estate only as the means of filling his coffers, he was more than once in danger of his life from plunderers, and left behind him a name which may be associated with those of Elwes, Dancer, and other similar disgraces to humanity. When this Cutler died he left his estates in the following manner—they were devised in the first instance to Elizabeth, wife of John Roberts, afterwards Earl of Radnor, and in the event of the failure of issue to a relation, John Boulter, Esq. who took possession of the estate in 1696. Mr. Boulter was a careless extravagant spendthrift, he soon squandered away his property, and his trustees sold Harewood, in 1721, to Henry Lascelles, Esq. the father of the first Lord Harewood.

Of the old house at Gawthorpe the following particulars are collected from the advertisement to which we have before alluded,

and as this was the identical place where Strafford resided, the description cannot but be interesting. The original hall, it seems, had been very considerably improved either by Strafford or his father, hence we are told, there were four rooms in the old building all wainscotted, that in the new building there were five large rooms all wainscotted and "collored like walnut tree, the materialls of which house if sould would raise £500 at least. The park which surrounded the hall was extensive, and in former times had been well stocked with deer—"a parklike place it is," says the old writer. The following descriptive paragraph will not only shew to us the scenes in which Strafford, (according to his letter which we have quoted p. 48,) took so much delight, but will also give to us some accurate idea of the mode of ornamental gardening which prevailed in the middle of the seventeenth century. "There is att Gawthorpe a garden and orchards about three acres in compasse, fenced round with high stone walls, the garden towards the north side hath four walls lying one above another, both the garden and orchard well planted with great store of fruit trees of severall kinds."

When the place was inherited by Edwin Lascelles, Esq. the first Lord Harewood, he determined to avail himself of the natural character of the land, to render his estate one of the most convenient, one of the most productive, and one of the most beautiful in the kingdom. He fixed upon a sheltered site a little above the old hall at Gawthorpe for a magnificent mansion, and he commenced those improvements in planting, in laying out the park, and in other alterations, which have rendered this one of the most splendid ornaments of the county. The house was built by the late Mr. Muschamp, of Harewood, under the direction of Mr. Adams, of London, and Mr. Carr, of York—the quadrangle of the stables was built by Sir William Chambers—the building is decorated with all the ornaments of Corinthian architecture; it is two hundred and forty-eight feet long and eighty-four feet wide; it consists of a centre and two wings, with a truly magnificent portico; the numerous and splendid apartments are finished with equal costliness and taste; the ceilings of many of them are beautifully executed from the designs of the first British and Italian artists; the paintings, the busts, and the other usual articles to be found in a nobleman's collection, are very numerous and valuable; and the whole mansion corresponds with its dignity as the residence of one of the first families in the county. The

grounds were laid out by the celebrated Brown, or Capability Brown as he was called, and the whole expense of forming the lake and planting the park, &c. amounted to more than sixteen thousand pounds. One very great improvement was effected in this domain by the late Lord Harewood. The turnpike-road which formerly ran between the house and the castle has been diverted, and the latter is now included within the domain. The walks about the mansion are exquisitely beautiful, and the whole scene is such as England only can produce.

In the feudal times there was seldom a castle without a town protected by its vicinity, and dependent upon its lords. There is little doubt that the town of Harewood existed soon after the castle, and there is reason to believe that it was formerly much more extensive and important than it is now. In 1633, Lord Strafford obtained a charter for a market to be held here every Monday, with two annual fairs, and a fortnight fair to be held in summer. At the same time there was a tolbooth or court house under which were six shops for general sales, and a shambles for butchers. These facts argue the existence of a far more numerous population than can be found at present. The land in the neighbourhood of the village was not entirely cultivated; there were several large commons, and marshes frequented by wild fowl; there were two large stanks or ponds, replete with fish, one at Hollin Hall and the other at Gawthorpe; and the timber was very abundant and valuable. The appearance of Harewood has been wonderfully changed since that period, the population has indubitably diminished, all the old cottages and other buildings have been pulled down, the houses have been erected upon a handsome scale and with a uniform elevation, the number of inns or public houses has been reduced from six to one, and an air of aristocratic dignity is breathed over the whole place, which is seldom to be inhaled in England. The church will be described in the next book.

The following townships are either partially or wholly included in the parish of Harewood. East Keswick, Dun Keswick, Wike, Weeton, Weardley, and Wigton, to which the village of Alwoodley must be added. The following notices of these villages are given in Doomsday Book. "In Chesinc (Keswick) Tor had five carucates to be taxed. Land to three ploughs. Twenty shillings. In Wic (Wike) Ligulf and Glunier had six carucates to be taxed. Land to three ploughs. Eighteen shillings. In Alunoldelie

(Alwoodley) Roschil had five carucates to be taxed. Land to three ploughs. Twenty shillings." These were all included in the lands of the King. Weardley and Weeton were part of the lands of Gospatric, and are thus described. "In Widetun (Weeton) Gospatric two carucates of land and a half to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. There are now two villanes and one bordar with one plough, and it pays seven shillings. In Wartle (Weardley) Ligulf and Saxulf had five carucates of land to be taxed. Gospatrie now has it and it is waste. Value in King Edwards time twenty-five shillings. Half a mile long and half broad."* From these accounts it appears that the whole population of these districts, consisted only of three families—to such a state of desolation it had been reduced. This part of the district is very thinly peopled at the present day, no manufactories of any description are to be found within its boundaries, its inhabitants are entirely agricultural, and both in manner, dialect, appearance, and habits, they are astonishingly different from their neighbours a few miles to the south.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF HAREWOOD.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Alwoodley, ...	143	132	142	142
Dunkeswick,.....	218	238	257	261
Harewood, ...	707	771	849	894
East Keswick, ...	535	267	296	365
Weardley,.....	139	190	191	169
Weeton, ...	237	297	310	322
Wigton, ...	134	171	164	168
Wike, ...	59	51	139	142

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 34, 218, 240.

CHAPTER V.

THE PARISHES OF BARDSEY, COLLINGHAM, BERWICK-IN-ELMET, WHITKIRK, LEDSHAM, KIPPAX, AND SWILLINGTON.

BARDSEY.

THIS is a quiet and perfectly rural village, remote from the turmoil of the busy world, and presenting one of the most perfect pictures of seclusion the whole district can afford. Whoever wishes to live without noise, without tumult, without any signs of thriving traffic, or numerous population, let him go to Bardsey, and he will find a place in perfect accordance with his wishes. Although we shall be opposing the conjectures of some of our eminent antiquaries, we cannot but assert the probability that the place obtained its name from the British bards who might make this one of their meeting places. The Saxon termination of the word, *ea*, may, we are aware, be adduced to overturn this statement; yet it is not improbable that it might have been added in the course of years by the mere habit of popular provincial pronunciation. It does not seem to us correct and consistent always to decide in a sweeping and authoritative manner, that the first syllables of these local designations were the names of the first Saxon proprietors of the places. And we may indulge in the belief that where this peaceful village now stands in solitary pleasantness, the voice of measured declamation, and the wild shouts of enthusiastic fury were heard, and Druids performed their horrible rites, while British warriors prepared for expeditions of plunder, or the sanguinary contests of civil war.

Bardsey was unquestionably a place of considerable consequence in Saxon times, but whether the immense earthworks and fortifications which we have already pointed out to our readers, (see p. 34,) are the fragments of a royal or of an ealdorman's residence, whether they included the whole population within their

circumference, or were surrounded by the wretched hovels in which the Saxon peasantry were accustomed to dwell, it is impossible to conjecture. It is most likely that this was the residence not of a Northumbrian monarch, but of some powerful Saxon Chieftain, and that there was a village, or a town, in the immediate vicinity of his abode.

It is thus described in Doomsday Book among the lands of the King. "In Bereleseie, Ligulf had two carucates to be taxed. Land to one plough. Twenty shillings."* Not long after the Conquest, Bardsey became the property of the Mowbray family, one of whom bestowed it upon the monks of Kirkstall Abbey, in the time of Alexander, the first abbot of that monastery. Some transactions, relative to this place, afterwards occurred, which will shew how desirous some of the early English monarchs were to circumscribe the already overgrown possessions of the ecclesiastics. Henry II. having been offended with Roger de Mowbray, seized some of his lordships in this part of the country, and among the rest Bardsey, which he afterwards granted in exchange to Adam de Brus. The monks immediately raised an immense outcry against the King, but all their vociferations were treated with contempt. When John ascended the throne, the abbott of Kirkstall employed the interest of his patron, Roger de Lacy, to recover possession of the lands, but John only partially complied, by granting, for a fee farm rent of ninety pounds, a demise of the disputed manors.† Bardsey, after the dissolution, was retained by the crown, until in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was granted, with Collingham and Micklethwaite, to Henry Carey Lord Hunsdon; his grandson, in 1620, conveyed Bardsey, Collingham, and Micklethwaite, to Sir Thomas Wentworth. The celebrated Lord Strafford again disposed of these manors to Sir John Lewis, of Ledston, one of whose daughters conveyed them by marriage to Lord Scarsdale. In 1720, they were again conveyed to the first Lord Bingley, and the barony of Bardsey, with its appendages, now belongs to the Foxes of Bramham Park, who have succeeded to the estates, but not to the title, of the Bingleys.

Bardsey is by no means destitute of literary celebrity, since it was the birth-place of the celebrated, though eccentric and conceited, poet Congreve. He was born in the Grange, as appears

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 33. † Stev. Mon. Ang. 1, 861.

from the following entry in the parish register, "William, sonne of Mr. William Congreve, of Bardsey Grange, was baptized Feb. 10, 1669." Bardsey Grange was also signalised during the Protectorate by the residence of Francis Thorpe, Baron of the Exchequer, whose character has been coloured in the darkest shades by some bigotted writers, but who does not appear to have merited the infamy of hypocrisy and cunning which these individuals have attached to his name.

We have only to add further concerning Bardsey, that the jurisdiction of its Court Leet is very extensive, that the copyholders of Collingham are bound to do service before it, and that the same service has to be performed by many occupiers of land within the parish of Otley. The most beautiful church here, will be described in its proper place.

The parish of Bardsey, which is of but contracted dimensions, and, with the exception of Rigton, rather a township than a village, contains a very small population. Rigton is mentioned in Doomsday Book, but it will be useless in the absence of any other particulars to transcribe the notice in that volume. Wothersome, a hamlet in the same parish, scarcely deserves mention.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BARDSEY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Bardsey with Rigton, ...	364	348	356	331
Wothersome, ...	15	15	16	21

THE PARISH OF WHITKIRK.

THIS name is derived from the erection of a church of White Stone in the place of a much earlier one of wood, discoloured no doubt by exposure to the atmosphere in so bleak a situation. The church itself is placed on the most commanding site occupied by any similar edifice in the district; it is built on the summit of a lofty hill, and is a prominent landmark from an immense distance in every direction. It is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, no accurate intelligence can be procured of its institution as a parish, nor can it be ascertained from which of the great Saxon parishes it was dissevered.

By far the most interesting object in this parish is TEMPLE NEWSAM, now the seat of the Marchioness of Hertford. This place is mentioned in the following terms in Doomsday Book. "In Neuhusum, Dunstan and Glunier had eight Carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be four ploughs. Anisfrid now has it under Ilbert, and there are eight villanes and two sokemen, with three ploughs. Meadow three acres. Wood pasture half a mile long and half broad. Value in King Edward's time sixty shillings, now six shillings."* Of this place Gough says, "From Leeds the Are passeth by Temple Newsam, anciently Nehus or Newbiggin, where a preceptory of Knights Templars was founded in the time of Henry III." † To this powerful and renowned body it was given by William de Villers, contemporary with Archbishop Roger of York, who died 1181.

Although it may be a diversion from the regular order of our history, we shall for the benefit of general readers give a short account of the Knights Templars. This renowned order was established in 1118, by the patriarch of Jerusalem, when the crusaders were in possession of that city. It originally consisted of nine poor knights, who lived together near the site of the ancient Temple, from which they derived their name. Their original employment was to take care of the pilgrims when

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 126. † Gough's Camden, iii. 45.

exposed to the attacks of the infidels, and to protect the roads in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem. Their fame was soon extended, their numbers were surprisingly increased, their valour excited the admiration of Christendom, and every nation in Europe poured its contributions into their treasury, and endowed them with territorial possessions. Their arrogance increased with their wealth, and after their expulsion from the Holy Land, they became immersed in luxury, they wallowed in every sensual indulgence, and their reputation for sanctity and even for morality rapidly declined. Philip the Fair, King of France, no doubt from motives of avarice as well as policy, after repeatedly denouncing the order to Pope Clement V. at length ordered all the knights in his dominions to be arrested in one day, and extorted from many of them the confession of the most enormous crimes. The Pope then found that the interest of the papal see required him to interfere; he promulgated bulls addressed to the different sovereigns of Europe, in which he detailed the dreadful charges which were brought against the knights, and requested that they might all be put into confinement, and that judges might be appointed to determine their innocence or guilt. On the same day, all the knights in England and Ireland were apprehended, the process against them continued for three years, the result of the inquiry was laid before the Pope at the Council of Vienne, and, after much deliberation, he published a bull suppressing the order, not exactly in consequence of its guilt, but as a measure of expediency and prudence. It was further determined by the Pope, that in order to preserve the property of the Templars for its original purpose, it should be transferred to the Knights Hospitallers; but Edward II. then King of England, when this order was communicated to him, suspended its execution for more than a year, and when he assented to it, declared that he allowed it to operate for purposes of national utility, and without abandoning his own right, or that of his subjects, to the property in question. Some years afterwards he consulted the judges upon the subject, and they declared that by the law of the land all the possessions of the Templars had reverted as escheats to the lords of the fees, and immédiately an act of parliament was passed, assigning them to the Knights Hospitallers, for the same purposes for which they had been originally bestowed upon the Templars.*

A. D. 1312.

* Rymer's Fæd. iii. 30, 34, 43, 101, 327, &c. Lingard, ii. 553, 555.

Temple Newsam, however, never passed into the hands of the Hospitallers, but was granted in the second year of the reign of Edward III. to Sir John Darcy and his heirs male. To the reign of Henry VIII. it regularly descended in the line of this family, but at this period, Thomas Lord Darcy and Meinel having taken an active part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, was attainted, and his estate was forfeited to the crown. In the crown, however, it did not long continue, for it was granted to Matthew the Earl of Lennox, who was a resident at this place when his unhappy son Henry Lord Darnley was born—that son who was the husband of one of the most beautiful women that ever lived, and the victim of one of the foulest crimes that ever was perpetrated—that son who was the founder of a race of princes the most infatuated and the most unfortunate described in the page of history, distinguished both by their misfortunes and their crimes, and the last of whom, like his fathers, died a fugitive and an exile in a foreign land.

When James I. the son and heir of Lord Darnley ascended the throne, the manor was again united to the crown, but James soon bestowed it upon his relative the Duke of Richmond. This nobleman sold it to Sir Arthur Ingram, the son of a citizen of London, who had elevated himself to opulence by his commercial industry and enterprize, and Sir Arthur intending to fix in Yorkshire the permanent residence of his family, purchased not only the manor of Temple Newsam, but the manors of Holbeck, Altoft, Warmfield cum Heath, and lands in many other places.

The old house, which had no doubt been reduced to a state of dilapidation by age, and by the neglect of its temporary possessors, Sir Arthur Ingram found by no means calculated for a wealthy resident proprietor. He therefore pulled down the ancient fabric (with the exception of one part, including the chamber in which Lord Darnley was born, and which Thoresby * explicitly states was to be seen in his time incorporated with the

* We transcribe the following sentence of Dr. Whitaker, which we leave for perusal without any comment. "After Thoresby's time, an ancient cup was found here, which evidently belonged to the Templars, the motto on which, though if I perfectly understood it, very indecent, served to vindicate the knights of this house from the most odious part of the charge preferred against them. I should not have mentioned this circumstance, but as a matter of evidence in favour of an oppressed and calumniated fraternity." Loid. and Elm. 183.

new building), and reared the magnificent brick mansion, which has remained to this day a monument of his liberality and taste. From the following passage in Strafford's letters, it seems that soon after it was built, the house was in imminent danger of being burnt to the ground. Lord Strafford says "Also Sir Arthur Ingram's house, Temple Newsham, by Yorke, is almost burnt to the ground. Household stuff to the value of four thousand pounds all consumed and lost."* Lord Strafford, however, was induced to exaggerate the damage by a false report, for although the loss in furniture and goods may have amounted to the sum which he stated, it was discovered, when repairing the house some years ago, that the ravages of the fire were confined to one wing of the building. A. D. 1635.

The house at Temple Newsam is built of brick, it forms the figure of a Roman H, or rather consists of three sides of a large quadrangle. The age of the first Stuarts was characterised by quaintness, and one striking proof of this defect in taste is furnished in this edifice. The roof is surmounted with a battlement composed of capital letters in stonework, with this inscription, "All Glory and Praise be given to God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost on High; peace upon earth, good will towards men, honour and true allegiance to our gracious King, loving affections amongst his subjects, health and plenty within this house." The external appearance of the building, though not uniform, is very imposing; its deep and embayed windows are distinctive of the age in which it was constructed; splendid convenience and domestic comfort form the character of its internal arrangments; its gallery, which contains a fine collection of paintings by the most eminent masters, is one hundred and nineteen feet long and above twenty wide; and the whole fabric constitutes a truly noble residence. The park around the house is extensive, it is shaded by venerable and magnificent woods, the walk on the southern declivity of the hill between gigantic trees is very fine, the situation is truly beautiful, and the prospect would be exquisitely lovely did not the smoke of Leeds, especially with a western wind, so generally obscure the horizon.

Whitkirk was indubitably a considerable village in former times; from a grant of profits made to the preceptory of Newlands near Wakefield, in the fourth year of Henry IV. it appears that

* Strafford's Letters, p. 525.

there was a considerable and advantageous fair, held probably annually; and the attribution of far greater importance to the place than it now possesses is justified by the erection of the present church about the time of Henry VII. most likely the third upon the site, and which would scarcely have been reared upon such a scale had not there been a numerous population around it. There are but few houses now at Whitkirk, some of them, however, are respectable, and the village, notwithstanding its elevated situation, is a very agreable and certainly a very healthy place of residence.

We must not omit that Temple Newsam and the estates connected with it, became the property of the late Marquess of Hertford, by his marriage with Isabella Ann Ingram Shepherd, the eldest daughter of Charles, the tenth Viscount Irwine. It is now the possession and frequently the residence of his relict the dowager Marchioness.

We shall here proceed to give consecutively the notices in Doomsday Book of the hamlets or manors in the parish of Whitkirk. "In Halletune (Halton) Morfare had six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Ilbert now has it, and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings, it now pays two shillings. In Seacroft Ode and Niucling, Ulmar, Stainulf, Ragenild had seven carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be four ploughs there. One Robert has it of Ilbert, and it is waste. Wood pasture four quarentens long and three broad. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, now twenty-pence."* Only one particular relative to the state of these villages can be deduced from this account, and that is that the property in both the places had been so deteriorated by the ravages of the Normans as to be worth little or nothing. The civil history of this region we have already exhausted. We have traced the derivation of the name Seacroft from those bloody battles in very ancient times which were fought in its vicinity. We have described the great event which occurred in the neighbourhood, and which effected a complete revolution in the government of the north of England—and we have stated how in the memorable civil war which expelled Charles the Second from his throne, a desperate contest took place at Seacroft between the parties who were struggling for the mastery. With reference to Halton, we shall give it the full honour of a conjecture relative to the

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 125.

origin of its name, which has been zealously adduced and defended by some accurate antiquaries. In ancient manuscripts it was written Halghton, or the Holy town. From this circumstance it has been supposed, that this is the place alluded to by the venerable Bede, who says in his ecclesiastical history, that when the king's palace and church at Allmanbury were burnt by the pagans, the altar was brought to the Sylva Elmetæ (the wood in Elmete), where it was preserved in his days, and where there was a religious house. That Halton was the very place in question is highly probable, not only from its name, but from its proximity to the great Saxon palace at Berwick and Osmandthorp. Some very curious particulars relative to this village will be given in the Commercial History. Halton is the least pleasant village in this neighbourhood; the valley to the north west now presents a singular scene, from the prodigious mound upon which the Leeds and Selby rail-road runs being carried through its whole length, and all the vast works of the Saxons in the neighbourhood sink into insignificance when compared with this great monument of modern labour. The stationary condition in which this parish has remained through a considerable period will be best ascertained by adverting to its comparative population.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF WHITKIRK.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Austhorpe,.....	103	150	150	169
Seacroft,.....	659	762	886	918
Temple Newsam, ...	1033	976	1166	1458
Thorp Stapleton, ...	5	5	25	19

THE PARISH OF BERWICK-IN-ELMETE.

THE name of this place is certainly derived from the fact that it was *the village of the castle*, alluding to the Saxon fortification we have already described in our Saxon history of the district. The notice in Doomsday is as follows, and as Ledstone and Kippax are both referred to in the same paragraph we shall give the whole at once. "In Chipesclh and Ledestune, Earl Edwin had eighteen carucates to be taxed, and there may be ten ploughs there. Land properly called Berewic, belongs to this manor, in which there are eight carucates to be taxed, and there may be four ploughs there. Ilbert de Lacy now has this land, where he has twelve ploughs in the demesne, and forty-eight villanes and twelve bordars, with sixteen ploughs and three churches and three priests, and three mills of ten shillings. Wood pasture two miles long and one broad. The whole manor five miles long and two broad. Value in King Edward's time sixteen pounds, the same now." Thus it is evident that the marauding soldiers of the tyrannical Conqueror had either neglected this favoured parish, or that there were some circumstances connected with the conduct or the influence of the Saxon possessors which saved their homes and their lands from the barbarous desolation in which the rest of the district was involved. What those circumstances were, we are unable, in the absence of all authentic record to conjecture. There must, however, have been in these parishes at the time of the survey, a population of at least six hundred persons. There can be little doubt but that the three churches mentioned in the survey were those of Berwick, Kippax, and Ledstone.

We have already so fully described the history of this place in the Saxon times, and substantiated its claims to the dignity of a royal residence, that we shall confine ourselves at present to the brief narrative of the particulars which can be gleaned relative to its condition in more modern times. From the name of Hall Tower Hill, which is applied to the immense mound which for-

merly instituted the Saxon keep, it is probable that a manor house stood here in subsequent times, but by whom erected and by whom destroyed, it is impossible to discover. The manor of Berwick was part of the possessions of the Lacies, Earls of Lincoln, and from them it passed to the duchy of Lancaster, by the marriage of Alice de Lacy with Thomas Plantagenet; it has ever since remained vested in the duchy, and the living is perhaps the most valuable which it has the power to bestow.

The principal persons who have had influence in the parish of Berwick in Elmete will be best ascertained from the inscriptions which remain in the church. Thoresby says, "Allhallows Church here has been adorned with painted glass, but most of it is now defaced; there remains only fragments of inscriptions round the heads, &c. as, "*qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto natus ex Maria;* by the royal arms in the window, the painting cannot be older than Henry V's time, the fleus de lis being only three. The steeple 'tis evident was built in the reign of Henry VI. by the inscription under the statue of Thos. Vavasour, Esq. who, by the stone he is presented with, appears to have been a benefactor thereunto. He was afterwards knighted, and High Sheriff of the county, 10 of Edward IV. &c. The ancient family of the Gascoignes of Barnbow and Parlington are interred in the closet on the north side of the church, where their arms remain empaled with the Vavasours' and the Ellyses' of Kiddall, &c." The same author also mentions a family of the name of Greenfields, who flourished at Berwick-in-Elmete in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.* &c. It seems then that the parish of Berwick-in-Elmete and its dependant villages had several families of comparative opulence and respectability flourishing there in the middle ages—but the genius of aristocracy has never found in these secluded regions any place of permanent abode, and the agriculturalists, as well as the manufacturers, have been left without the absolute and permanent residence of any of the permanent lords of the soil.

Unimportant, however, as the villages in this parish are now, some of them are mentioned in Doomsday Book. Of Kiddall it is said, "In Chidale and Ptilincton, Ulchil had three carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be two ploughs. Ilbert has now there three bordars with one plough. There is wood pasture there four quarentens long and four broad. Value in King

* Thoresby's Ducat. p. 234.

Edward's time thirty shillings, now three shillings." * It seems then that here, at any rate, there were some vestiges of population, and some indications of agricultural industry—that is to say in a large extent of district, and with a regular division of property, there were perhaps thirty persons dragging along their monotonous existence, and trembling at the appearance of a Norman soldier.

Some testimonies may be found at Kiddall of the residence of the ancient families we have alluded to, at the hall there was formerly a window with a reference to the Ellis's mentioned above, who here had their parent seat, and have produced some celebrated men. A bishop of Kildare, well known among the clergy, whose name was Ellis, was descended from this family; and the family of the same name, who have borne some of the most distinguished offices in the country, have originated from the same parent stem.

ROUNDHAY, one of the most pleasant places in the neighbourhood of Leeds, is in this parish. There can be little doubt that its name was derived from a park which formerly existed here in the time of the Lacies, and that from hence it was called Roundhay, or the circular pale. It appears by the Monasticon † that Roundhay was given to the monks of Kirkstall by Robert de Lacy at a very early period, and that it continued in the same possession until the dissolution. Then it was purchased by the Oglethorps; and was transferred in the reign of James I. to the Tempests, one of whom sold it to repair the dilapidations made in the property of the family by confiscations and fines, which had been imposed on account of the adherence of Stephen Tempest to the cause of Charles I. in the civil wars. The property has since been divided among several individuals. Roundhay is a very beautiful appendage to Leeds, it principally consists of elegant villas, surrounded with paddocks and pleasure grounds, and the seat of the late S. Nicholson, Esq. is one of the best mansions in the district.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BERWICK-IN-ELMETE.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Berwick,	1370	550	593	1608
Kiddal and Potterton,		145	124	
Morwich and Scholes,		457	491	
Barnbow,		271	273	
Roundhay,	84	150	186	314
Total,				1922

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 125. † Mon. Ang. 1, 862.

THE PARISH OF SWILLINGTON.

Of Swillington the following account is given in Doomsday Book. "In Suillicton, Dunstan and Ode had nine carucates to be taxed, and there may be five ploughs. Ilbert now has two villanes there, and two bordars with one plough. There is a church and four acres of meadow. Wood pasture four quarentens long and one quarenten broad, the whole manor half a mile long and half broad. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, now ten shillings." * A very ancient family, who assumed the surname of de Swillington, flourished here from a very early period, and frequently appear as witnesses to deeds to the commencement of the fifteenth century. From them the manor passed to the Hoptons, then to the Dyneleys, then to the Darcies, and then to the Lowthers, the present possessors. Swillington is one of the very few places in this district mentioned by Leland. He says of it, "Sir Arthur Hopton told me that the substance of the lands he hath longged to the Swillingtons, that same tyme were menne of two thousand markes of lands by the yere or more. The chief house of the Swillingtons was at Swillington, in Yorkshire, a four miles from Pontefract Castle toward the quarters of the river Aire. This Swillington ys yet in Syr Arthur Hopton's hands, and is the principal pece of land that he hath. It was a late sold to Master North, and he exchanged with Syr George Darcy for Einsham." † With the exception of this single quotation, of which no use can be made, not one circumstance can be presented to the reader relative to Swillington of any interest whatever. Swillington Hall is a very good house, lately modernized, situated very near the river, and forming a beautiful object from the opposite side. This parish consists only of the township, and is consequently very limited.

POPULATION OF SWILLINGTON.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
491	492	510	523

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 125. † Leland's Itin. vol. iv. part 8, p. 20.

THE PARISH OF LEDSHAM.

We have already quoted the notice of this place in Doomsday Book, and made the only observation upon the description given in that ancient record, which it appears to demand. There is no doubt that the word was derived either from Leedes Ham*—a hamlet depending upon, or connected with, Leeds—or from Leedes Hem, the skirt, border, or frontier of the region of Leeds or Loidis. Of both Ledsham and Ledston, Dr. Whitaker says, "The probable existence of a church at Ledston, and the omission of the usual mark in Doomsday to denote a church at Ledsham, concurring with the respective terminations of the words Ham and Tun, render it even more probable that as the two places had one founder, Leid, Leodi, or Loidi, the former was the village to which the church was attached, and the latter was the mansion of the Lord. Circumstances now irretrievable may have inverted this arrangment; at all events the principal mansion has long been at Ledston, and the parish church at Ledsham."† Surely the fact which in the latter clause of this statement is made by the Doctor, contradicts his own opinion, and goes far to prove that the church was always at Ledsham, and the mansion at Ledston.

Ledsham Hall was long the seat of a family of the name of Harebred, one of whom was clerk of the market in Ireland, in the reign of Charles I. and under the Earl of Strafford. He sold the estate of Ledsham to Sir Richard Saltonstall, knight. The church, of which an ample account will be given in the next book, is principally remarkable for the splendid monument it contains to the memory of Lady Elizabeth Hastings and her two surviving sisters. The name of Lady Elizabeth will occupy a distinguished place in our list of benefactors—she was indeed an ornament to her sex and a blessing to her neighbourhood.

* Spelman Gloss. voc. Hamlet. Ducatus, p. 235.

† Loid and Elm. 145.

Ledston has long been the seat of the lords of the adjoining estates. At the Conquest it was the property of Edward Earl of Mercia, whose lands were forfeited to the crown, and himself was slain in an attempt to assist his brother, the great Earl Morcar, who was in arms against the Normans. The hall was most probably built by the Withams, an ancient and highly respectable family, who resided at Ledston during many generations, until Henry Witham sold the estate to Sir Thomas Wentworth, the great Earl of Strafford, who would seem to have formed a strong attachment to the situation, since he is known to have made many improvements both in the house and the grounds. Sir John Lewis purchased Ledston from the second Earl of Strafford, who materially increased the convenience of the house and the beauty of the park—the latter he surrounded with a stone wall, and adorned with a stately lodge, built on a commanding eminence, and commanding an almost boundless prospect to the east, including the towers of York minster, the hills above Selby, and the distant summits of the Wolds. From the family of Sir John Lewis, Ledston passed by marriage to the Hastingses, Earls of Huntingdon, and afterwards to the Rawdens, Marquesses of Hastings.

Of the Withams, the ancient proprietors of the hall and the estate, one curious circumstance may be related. William Witham, who, from the pedigree of his family, appears to have been buried on the ninth of May, 1593, was supposed to have died in consequence of the diabolical incantations of an unfortunate being called Mary Pannel, who had obtained a disastrous celebrity in this part of the country for her supposed intercourse with malignant spirits. About ten years after the death of her imagined victim, she was apprehended on the charge of sorcery, arraigned and convicted at York, and was executed on a hill near Ledston hall, the supposed scene of her infamous operations. The hill where she died was long afterwards called Mary Pannel's hill, and was regarded with abhorrence and alarm by the ignorant rustics in the neighbourhood. In 1806, Ledston hall was honoured by a visit from the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. and the Duke of Clarence, his present Majesty. Michael Angelo Taylor, Esq. was then the resident at Ledston. The Prince paid a visit at the same time to Lady Irwin, at Temple Newsam, while the Duke of Clarence and Lord Dundas repaired to Leeds, and inspected the manufactory of Messrs. Wormald,

Gott & Co. the Cloth Halls, &c. with which the Duke declared himself to be highly gratified.

Ledston Hall is very beautifully situated; it stands on the brow of a fine eminence immediately above the rich valley of the river Aire, which by its junction with the Calder is swelled into a truly noble stream, and it commands a fine prospect of the mountain range which runs from the southmost districts of the Riding to the peak in Derbyshire. The hall itself is an excellent house; it consists of a centre and two wings, built at very different periods, and presenting a somewhat incongruous appearance.

Of this hall Gough speaks in the following terms, and in this instance we quote his description, not only on account of the hall itself, but also because of the particulars he communicates relative to one of its most distinguished owners. "Ledstone hall was formerly the seat of the ancient family of Witham, late of Sir John Lewes, Bart. who having acquired a large fortune during his nine years' factorship for the East India Company, and handsome presents of jewels from the King of Persia, who delighted in his company, laid out four hundred pounds in building an hospital here for ten poor aged people, endowing it with sixty pounds a year, and died in 1670. His eldest daughter and coheir married Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, and the seat came to her daughter Lady Elizabeth Hastings, who greatly improved it, and was a true pattern of piety and charity." * Ledston hall then is one of those very few seats in this district, which owe their principal glories, if not their very existence, to those nabobs of the east, who come with blasted constitutions and exorbitant wealth, to excite the astonishment and envy of the multitude, by exhibiting the glittering spoils of the east. Well would it be, if all these returned wealthy functionaries expended their property as laudably as Sir John Lewes!

The stone quarries in this neighbourhood have long possessed extensive and merited celebrity. One of these quarries long bore the name of Peter's Post, because York minster, dedicated to St. Peter, was built of its stone, for which a free passage through his estate was given by Robert Vavasour, Esq.† The stone from Huddlestone Quarry is very beautiful, large quantities of it were formerly brought to Leeds, and we have already mentioned it in our allusions to some of the edifices in that town; like many other kinds of freestone, it has the remarkable and the very

* Gough, iii. 46. † Monast. Anglu. iii. 162, 163, 564.

desirable quality of being so soft when taken from its bed as to be very easily wrought, but constantly increasing in hardness and durability when exposed to the air.

Of FAIRBURN, by far the most populous village in this parish, no particulars can be communicated which will be of any interest to the reader. The whole parish, like the others in its neighbourhood, is very thinly peopled, the inhabitants are entirely agriculturalists, and no manufactories have ever been established within its boundaries.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF LEDSHAM.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Ledsham,	220	241	212	236
Ledston,	238	195	243	243
Fairburn,	339	351	426	465
Total,				944

PARISH OF KIPPAX.

Of this parish, almost totally barren of materials for history, a very short notice must be sufficient. The Saxons had a fortress here, upon the summit of one of those hills to which they were so much attached for the purposes both of pleasure and defence. This circumstance originated the name, which in modern times has been somewhat corrupted from its original orthography and pronunciation. We have already seen that in Doomsday Book it was called Chepesch. The Saxon mount or fortress was called a Keep, Esh is the old northern spelling of the word *ash*, and on this account it is conjectured that the name was originated by some remarkable and celebrated ash, which grew either on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the mount or keep.

The principal object at Kippax is the park, the elegant seat of Thomas Davison Bland, Esq. The original house was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the old front still appears in the centre of the mansion. It was erected by Sir Thomas Bland, who was justice of the peace, in the 32nd Eliz. and who died in London in the first year of the reign of James I. His unhappy grandson, who died at the early age of twenty-one, two years after the restoration of Charles II. made large additions to the house, which after all he left unfinished, and it has been brought to its present state of elegance and convenience, by the taste and liberality of successive occupants. Gough describes Kippax hall with his usual accuracy. He tells us "it is pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and sheltered on the north by higher grounds. The park was well stocked with a particular set of black deer. Behind the house, in a garden, is an extraordinary good echo."* When the male line of the family of the Blands became extinct in 1756, the name was assumed by Thomas Davison, Esq. the grandson of Anne, the daughter of Sir John Bland, who on the commencement of the last century, was one of the most active

* Gough Additions to Camden, iii. 48.

magistrates in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and as member of Parliament successively for Appleby, Pontefract, and Lancashire, occupied a seat in the national legislature for a longer period than any other individual of his time.

POPULATION OF KIPPAX.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1523	1573	1763	1901

THE PARISHES OF THORNER AND COLLINGHAM.

The history of the parishes of Thorner and Collingham almost exclusively belongs to the next book, and little more need to be done in this part of our history, than to state the amount of their respective populations. They have seldom been alluded to in our local histories, few events have transpired within their limits which demand observation, and they are secluded from the common transit of travellers and from the usual track of topographers.

There is one fact, however, which a reference to these places will partially illustrate, and which is not devoid of interest. It seems unquestionably the case, that in Saxon times, the whole of this part of the district was of greater comparative importance than it now possesses. We have seen that the fragments of various Saxon fortifications and palaces are thickly scattered over the whole region, that some villages now obscure and insignificant were once honoured with the residence of monarchs and the display of their magnificence, and that there is every reason to conclude that the whole vicinity was highly cultivated and populous. This representation will be found corroborated by a very curious fact relative to Thorner, recorded in Doomsday Book. We first find it stated of this place, which is mentioned among the lands of Ilbert de Lacy, "In Torneure, Ulchil, Ulner, Berguluer, and Ulstan, had eight carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be there four ploughs. Ilbert has there two villanes, and one bordar with two ploughs. Wood pasture, half a mile long and the same broad. Value in King

Edwards time four pounds, now ten shillings." In another part of the same work, we find a dispute to have existed relative to the possession of Thorner. "The people of the wapentakes of Barchestone and Siraches, (Barkstone and Skyrack,) refused the evidence of Osbern de Arches, because they knew not of whose gift his predecessor Gulbert had all Tourneure, namely four manors of eight carucates of land. But the whole of Tourneure is situate within the bounds of the castle of Ilbert according to the first measurement, but without, according to the last measurement."* Hence it will be perceived that on account of the rent derived from Thorner, four pounds, no small sum in Saxon times, there must have been considerable care bestowed upon the cultivation of the soil; it is probable, indeed, that the place was more valuable in the time of Edward the Confessor than for some subsequent ages. It would be amusing, if it were not humiliating, to contemplate a few wretched serfs contending about the boundaries of the territorial jurisdiction of their tyrants, and disputing whether they were to be dragooned by Ilbert de Lacy, or by some other insolent military baron. The condition of the native English after their subjection by the Normans, was as degraded and as unhappy as that of any set of men who ever existed upon the surface of the globe. They were captives quarrelling about the weight of their chains. We purposely abstain from presenting those further particulars of this place, which will be best arranged in another department of our work. We only add here that Thorner is an extremely pleasant and rather a large village, consisting of one long street, the church is a very imposing object, and the neighbourhood is truly delightful. The inhabitants are blessed with a well of beautifully clear and salubrious water, commonly called Sykes's well. The two hamlets of Shadwell and Scarcroft are very agreable places for a visit, and very pleasant for a summer ramble, but they are insufferably monotonous as residences, and the roads in winter storms, or summer rains, are almost impassable.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF THORNER.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Thorner, ...	563	621	708	824
Shadwell, ...	141	187	197	248
Scarcroft, ...	70	74	105	168
Total, ...				1220

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 135, 239.

The history of **COLLINGHAM** is essentially interwoven with that of Bardsey, with which it has generally been identified in the transfers of property which have taken place. It is a delightful village by the Wharf, and its importance has been very materially increased, since the new road from Leeds to Wetherby has been opened, and since some of the public coaches and other vehicles from the former town to York, have begun to run through the place. Micklethwaite is not in our district.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF COLLINGHAM.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
287	326	286	414

CHAPTER VI.

THE PARISHES OF METHLEY, CASTLEFORD, AND ROTHWELL.

THE PARISH OF METHLEY.

METHLEY is a very ancient village or rather town. In the Saxon times it was respectable if it was not important. One very interesting relic of those times still remains. It is the statue of king Oswald, the patron saint of the place, over the south door of the church, with which it is most probably contemporary; it represents the figure of a venerable man in robes, with a sceptre and a crown, and though it is considerably decayed it is still in good preservation when its very high antiquity is considered. Of the condition of the place in Saxon times, some idea may be formed by the description of it in Doomsday book. "In Medelai, Osulf and Cunt had eight carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be five ploughs. Ilbert has there seventeen villanes, and five bordars with five ploughs. Wood pasture, one mile long and one broad. There is a church and a priest. Value in King Edward's time sixty shillings, now forty shillings."* According to the principle of calculation then which we have adopted in this work, Methley had at this period a population of two hundred and twenty, or two hundred and thirty souls.

In what method the manor of Methley was conveyed to the hospital of St. Nicholas at Pontefract, it is impossible to ascertain, but that it had been granted to that foundation is indubitable, since a licence was granted in the eleventh year of the reign of Henry IV. to the master of the house in question, to exchange this manor with Sir John Waterton for certain advowsons. The Watertons very soon made Methley the place of their permanent residence. The following is the manner in which Methley

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 139, 140.

was transferred from the family of the Watertons. The last Sir Robert Waterton, who lived in the reign of Edward IV. had no issue, and his estates devolved to his sister lady Welles, who had four coheiresses. One of these coheiresses was married to Sir Thomas Dymoke, knight, who in the distribution of the estates became seized of the manor of Methley; how it passed from the Dymokes cannot be ascertained, but in less than a century after the event to which we have alluded, it became the property of the Saviles, with whom it still remains.

Of the residents at Methley, and their immediate connexions, some interesting particulars may be gleaned from the records of bygone days. One of the Sir Robert Watertons, who distinguished himself by founding the chapel which bears his name, in Methley church, was one of the most prominent characters of his age. After having served Richard II. he became master of the horse to Henry IV. and he was one of the knights who with Sir Thomas Rokeby arrested the progress of the insurrection of the Earl of Northumberland, which terminated in the defeat and death of that ambitious nobleman on Bramham Moor. Lionel Lord Welles, who prominently engaged in the sanguinary wars of the Roses, and who was slain at the battle of Towton, was brought to Methley to be interred, and his memory is commemorated by a splendid tomb, upon which his representation reclines in the church. When the Saviles obtained possession of Methley, their house was often the abode not only of hospitality, but of learning, and some of the members of this family rendered Methley the concentration of intelligence and liberal inquiry. A striking and a pleasing proof of this is afforded by a letter among the Strafford papers, from Sir Henry Wotton to the Earl of Strafford, then Sir Thomas Wentworth, in which he informs him of the fulfilment of a promise in having borrowed for him from the celebrated John Hales of Eton, Dutravius de Piscinis, a piece of rural philosophy, on which he says they had conversed at Methley, and he speaks with great delight of the *Methley Triplicity*, of which Henry Lord Clifford formed one.* This language proves that the then resident at Methley must have been a man both of knowledge and of taste, and implies a pleasing communion of literature and of comparative elegance, in an age when not many of the English nobility were devoted to the

* Strafford's letters, i. 45.

muses. Of this family we can only add at present that Sir John Savile, of Methley hall, was created baron Pollington of Longford in Ireland, in 1753, and Earl of Mexborough in 1765. The title still remains in the family.

One of the most accurate and valuable of our antiquarians and topographers has thus spoken of Methley. "The town of Methley stands on a great deal of ground, and had in it many houses of gentlemen who had estates in these parts."

"Methley hall," continues the same writer, "stands a little to the west of the town and church of Methley. This was a fine old house built originally by Sir Robert Waterton, in the reign of King Henry IV. but afterwards great part of it was rebuilt in the time of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir John Savile the Judge. It was moated round, and had a stone bridge over the moat to a tower in the centre of the front, where was a gateway or entrance with strong gates like a castle, and a portcullis to let down in time of danger. On the opposite side of the house was a drawbridge over the moat. The house was built like a castle round a square court. In the front were three towers, that in the middle through which the grand entrance was, and another tower at each end of the front, in one of which was a ring of bells. But the house having gone out of repair by reason of the moat, the late Earl of Mexborough pulled part of it down and built much in the modern taste. There is a good park and well stocked with deer." * This old hall, Thoresby, who incidentally refers to it in his account of Potter Newton, calls it "a curious house at Medley, which was it within my limits, merits a particular description, especially the celebrated long gallery, in the windows of which are painted the arms of the Yorkshire nobility as they were in Elizabeth's reign,"—and then he justly adds "that this ancient and honourable family has obliged the world with many eminent and learned persons." † The gallery of which Thoresby speaks in this passage has been pulled down, and a modern front has been erected, distinguished by a simplicity not often discovered in mansions of a similar dignity and extent. Some of the interior apartments are very superb, all the arrangements are magnificent and convenient, the hall and the back part of the house retain all the interesting characters of antiquity, and the range of park in front of the grand entrance, bounded by very

* Gough's Additions to Camd. vol. iii. p. 41. † Ducat. 113.

extensive woods, is one of the finest in the county. The whole domain of Methley displays a softened, chastened, and luxuriant beauty rarely equalled in this part of the country. The village has lost much of its character as described by Gough, although there are still some respectable houses in its vicinity: some of the buildings are very ancient, the house fronting the road from Leeds, and standing near the church, is a perfect picture of a country inn of the olden time, the surrounding country is rich and cultivated to the highest possible degree, and some gentle slopes and undulating hills prevent that monotonous aspect of dead and unvarying level, which characterises so many of the most fruitful provinces of England. The beauty of the country is materially increased by the approach of the two great rivers Aire and Calder to the junction of their waters, which takes place at Castleford, about a mile and a half from Methley.

The retirement of Methley has been somewhat invaded, though its convenience has been materially subserved, by the formation of the new Leeds, Pontefract, and Barnsdale turnpike-road, which was opened July 13, 1822, and diminishes the distance of the former road between Leeds and Doncaster more than four miles. It was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. M'Adam, so celebrated for his new system of making and repairing roads and thoroughfares. The reader will be pleased by perusing at the close of this brief account the short and grateful description of this place by Camden. At the conflux (i. e. of the Aire and Calder) stands Methley anciently Medeley, g. d. *interamna*, or the town between rivers, so called from its situation, in the last age the seat of Robert Waterton, master of the horse to King Henry V. but now of the renowned knight Sir John Savile, a most worthy baron of the Exchequer, to whose politeness I most gladly take this opportunity of professing my obligations, as well as to his learning for promoting this work.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF METHLEY.

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
1,234	1,385	1,499	1,593

THE PARISH OF CASTLEFORD.

We have already so exhausted the ancient history of Castleford, (see p. 19,) and its modern history is so barren of incident and event, that a very few words will be sufficient to dismiss the subject. When the Roman town at Castleford was destroyed, a very considerable period seems to have elapsed before it again became the site of a village. And when a skirmish took place here between the citizens of York and the soldiers of Ethelred, five hundred years after the departure of the Romans, it was a mere ford across the river. The origin of its name as "the ford by the castrum or castle," has been pointed out in the description we have already given of it. It is a very remarkable circumstance, that Castleford, though so near to Pontefract, is not mentioned in Doomsday Book. It was probably at that time completely in ruin and desolation, and even if it had not been so, William the Conqueror and his bands of gallant barbarians, who were detained here three weeks by the swelling of the Aire when on their march to the siege of York, and the devastation of the north of England, would have reduced it to utter destruction. Since it appears almost certain that the church at Castleford was built by one of the first Lacies, and that the little parish was at the same time dissevered from that of Methley, it is probable that the rudiments of a town were formed here soon after the Conquest, and that a few cottages, with a house for a priest, were built along the margin of the stream. Henry de Lacy, who flourished in the reign of Henry the First, granted the church at Castleford to the hospital of Barton Lazers in Lincolnshire, (a grant which never took effect) and bestowed upon the monks of Pontefract the profits of the ferry. It is evident, therefore, that at this period, there was no bridge. When the heiress of the Lacies was married to the Duke of Lancaster, Castleford became the property of that duchy, and John of Gaunt alienated two-thirds of the tithe of the demesne lands in this parish towards the maintenance

of a chaplain in St. Clement's chapel, within the walls of the castle of Pontefract. It is most likely from the fact of the arms of this prince having been placed upon the borders of the windows of the church, that he repaired and probably rebuilt that edifice. Although the advowson of the church is vested in the king, the Blands of Kippax park are the mesne lords of the manor. In the wars of the Roses, Castleford witnessed the passage of the troops of Lord Falconbridge over the river Aire prior to the engagement which issued in the defeat and death of the sanguinary and brutal Lord Clifford, and formed an ominous prelude to the great battle of Towton. Only one other circumstance of a very different nature distinguished it during the middle ages—it was the birth-place of Thomas de Castleford, a Benedictine monk, who wrote the history of Pontefract, and flourished about the year 1326. Castleford, from its situation at the confluence of the Aire and Calder, possesses a trade very considerably above its proportion of population; it has an extensive pottery, and large quantities of flint and corn are conveyed from it to Leeds and Wakefield. A curious regulation is established here relative to tithes; twenty eight quarts of wheat are paid to the rector for every one pound of annual rent paid by the tenant to his landlord on arable land, and twenty quarts for every two pounds of annual rent on grass land, free of tenants' taxes. The stone bridge, of three arches, over the Aire was built by Bernard Hartley in 1805. The monotonous uniformity of existence at Castleford has seldom been disturbed by any extraordinary occurrence, and nothing has taken place here to divert the attention of the inhabitants from their customary occupations, with the exception of a riot in 1795, when the people, goaded to phrenzy by the high price of provisions and the impossibility of providing for the necessities of their families, seized a vessel laden with corn, and did not abandon their prize until the military arrived and captured a dozen of their ringleaders.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF CASTLEFORD.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Castleford, ...	793	890	1,022	1,141
Glass Houghton, ...	382	409	412	446
Total, ...				1,587

THE PARISH OF ROTHWELL.

THE derivation of this name is evident and easy. The first syllable is a Saxon word, which signifies the noise of a bubbling and abundant fountain, and the whole refers to the copious and excellent well near the church.

That it was a place of importance in the time of the Saxons is demonstrated by the fact, that it was a parish separated from the original one at Morley, and was therefore most likely the centre of a considerable population. Another remarkable circumstance conducts to the same conclusion—each of the townships into which the parish was, and still is, divided, had a manor house in the Saxon times, although in the era of the Conqueror they all constituted but one manor. The following is the account of this parish in Doomsday Book. "In Rodewell and Lostose, Carlentone, Torp, and Middletone, there are twenty-four carucates and one oxgang to be taxed, and there may be twelve ploughs there. Harold, (fourteen carucates,) Bared, (seven carucates and a half,) Alric, (ten oxgangs and a half,) and Stainulf, (ten oxgangs and a half,) had halls there. Ilbert now has two ploughs there, and sixteen villanes, and one bordar with eight ploughs, and one mill of two shillings, and nine acres of meadow. Wood pasture, two miles long, and one broad. The whole manor two miles long and two broad. Value in King Edward's time eight pounds, now sixty-five shillings."* The fact that in each of the townships mentioned above, there was a resident proprietor and a hall, is unique in the history of this district, and implies a degree of happiness and general prosperity, as well as security of property, unknown in almost any other department of the neighbourhood, and unhappily also unknown in this parish for a period long posterior to the Conquest. There is a strange mistake in this description relative to the size of the parish; it is represented as

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 142.

only two miles square, whereas it has thrice the dimensions which are thus assigned to it.

Rothwell then was a manor belonging to the Lacies, and incorporated in their lordship of Pontefract; and in order to maintain their influence, and to defend their possessions, they built a small castle or fortress, which stood very near the present church, and of which some fragments remain to the present day. When this castle became dismantled, or otherwise unfit for the purposes of defence, the inhabitants, from the machicolated battlement of the church tower, appear to have regarded it as their fortress, and to have been prepared to defend it in danger. Of this church we shall speak in the next book. Its advowson, and the great tithes connected with it, were sold by Humphrey Mildmay and Thomas Crompton to George Earl of Salop, in the 31st of Elizabeth. After several intermediate descents, they were sold by the executors of Edward Wortley Montague, Esq. to Charles Brandling, Esq. of Middleton, for sixteen thousand pounds, and in his family the patronage now remains. The manor of Rothwell and Rhodes belongs to John Blayds, Esq. of Oulton. When Alice de Lacy, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, married Thomas Earl of Lancaster, all the possessions of the Lacies were vested in the duchy, and in the duchy no inconsiderable proportion of them in this part of the district still remain. We have already mentioned an interesting circumstance which took place in this parish, (see p.) when the last wild boar in the north of England was killed in a hunt by John of Gaunt; we can only add that some pieces of armour which have long been preserved in the neighbourhood are said to have belonged to this celebrated Prince, but upon what ground it is impossible to discover. We are inclined to believe that the tradition is unfounded. During the sixteenth century, Rothwell was twice visited by the plague; on the first occasion, in 1557, the burials increased from twenty to seventy-six, and in 1588 from thirty-four to one hundred and twenty-seven.

We shall now proceed to refer to each of the townships and other places in the parish of Rothwell, and then make some general observations on the whole.

The manor house at Rothwell was anciently called the Manor Garth, and from the following curious warrant from Henry VII. preserved in the records of the honour of Pontefract, it appears during the wars of the Roses to have fallen into ruin. "Henry,

&c. To our trusty and well beloved the steward of Pontefract. Whereas the manor of our lordship of Rothwell called the Mannor Garth, is in grete ruyine of decay, and the building upon the same edified is lyke for feblenesse and defalt of reparacion in tymes past, to fall downe, and whereof as nowe wee have litel profitt or none. And forasmuch as our trustye and wel beloved Roger Hopton, Esq. gent. husher of our chamber, hath promised and granted to reedifie and build a certayne convenient housding of less building, more for our pleasir and hys ese within ye said Garthes, that hee may have ye same Garthes to hym, hys heirs and assigns by copye of our corte, and after the custome of the mannor there. Wherefore wee wyl and require you, &c. Yeaven at oure palace of Westminster, the eight and twentieth day of November, the firste yeere of our rayne." Such was the reward of the family of the Hoptons for their no doubt faithful services to the cause of the Lancastrians, and active exertions on the bloody field of Bosworth.

ROTHWELL HAIGH,

Though not a township, demands specific mention in this chapter. The second word of the name appears to be a corruption of Haye, and the name was given to it because of the pale with which it was surrounded as an ancient park of the Lacies. It descended to the duchy of Lancaster, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Lord Darcy. Its subsequent owners totally neglected it as unworthy of their attention, unconscious of the inexhaustible riches contained beneath its surface. It was inclosed in 1784, and its productiveness soon demonstrated the wisdom of its cultivation. The coal mines at this place are immensely valuable to the owners.

OULTON.

It is a singular circumstance that this place, which, from its name "the Old Town," would appear to lay claim to considerable antiquity, is not mentioned in Doomsday Book. Oulton has, however, obtained a celebrity which few places in this district can parallel, as having been the birth-place of Dr. Richard Bentley, whose name as a scholar, notwithstanding all his failings, will descend to the latest posterity. His family were respectable, but they had not long resided in the village prior to the birth of this extraordinary man, and at the present period the very house in

which he was born cannot be pointed out. The following is the record of his baptism in the parish register of Rothwell. "Feb. 6, 1661, (Bapt.) Richard, a child of Thomas Bentley, of Oulton." In a later hand it is added, "Since D. D. and a learned author, 1700;" and in a third hand, "He died in the year 1742." The manor of Oulton belongs to John Blayds, Esq. The village is pleasant and rural, and the hall, which was formerly a common substantial dwelling house, is now an excellent mansion, equal to any gentleman's house in the vicinity. The most beautiful new church here, whose existence is to be ascribed to the munificence of the gentleman we have just named, will demand particular and extended description in its proper place in the next chapter. One of the most striking objects in this rural place is a house on the left hand side on the entrance to the village on the road from Leeds, which is one of the best specimens of the old wood and plaister style of building with gables, which is to be found in this part of the country.

MIDDLETON.

The township of Middleton is remarkable for three circumstances—first for the remains of an indigenous wood exactly of the description of the Silva Pascua of Doomsday Book—secondly, for the great abundance of its coal—and thirdly, for the residence of one of the most ancient and respectable families in this neighbourhood. The first who can be discovered to have been seized of this manor was Robert de Creping, thrice high sheriff of the county in the reign of Henry III. John Creping, the son of the above Robert, held the same dignity in the first and second years of the reign of Edward II. The grand-daughter of John, who was married to Sir John Merworth, a knight of Kent, granted with her husband the manor of Middleton to Gilbert de Leghe, at that time residing in Cheshire, but descended from a very ancient family in the county of Cumberland. He entered upon the possession of the manor in the reign of Edward III. Here the family continued to reside until the reign of Henry VIII. when William Leghe, Esq. who then held lands in West Ardsley, Westerton, Wombwell, Blacop, and Long Liversedge, in this county, as well as in the county of Chester, entered upon the possession of the estate; he appears to have been engaged in some plot against government, or to have, by some other transaction, fallen under the displeasure of the king, for he was attainted of

high treason with one Edward Tattersall, a clothier, and Ambler,
A. D. 1541. a priest, in the thirty-third year of the reign of Henry VIII. and he was shortly afterwards executed with his accomplices. Notwithstanding this unfortunate circumstance, the manor continued in the possession of the Leghes, and Sir Ferdinando Leghe was a distinguished officer in the royal army in the civil wars; he was first captain in the Isle of Man under the Earl of Derby, then he was of the privy chamber to Charles I. and afterwards colonel of a regiment of horse in the service of the king. He died at Pontefract, 1654. His grand-daughter married Ralph Brandling, Esq. of Tilling, in the county of Durham, in whose family it has ever since, that is more than a century, remained. There are scarcely any remains to be discovered of the old manor house of the Leghes—the modern mansion, erected by the Brandling family, stands on a fine elevation, commands extensive prospects of Leeds and the surrounding country, is surrounded by fine oak woods, which contain some pleasant walks and drives, and would be a very agreeable residence were it not for the filth and noise of the adjacent coal mines.

LOFTHOUSE

Has acquired its principal fame from having been the residence of the celebrated John Hopkinson, the antiquary, whose learning and prudence acquired the just respect of the stormy age in which he lived, and whose labours have imposed upon every succeeding topographer a debt of gratitude and admiration. This celebrated man was clerk of the peace for the county of York in the reign of Charles I.—he devoted all his leisure time to the collection and transcription of all the curious papers relating to the antiquities of the whole county of York he could obtain, and in transcribing and arranging the genealogies of the nobility and gentry. His compilations and manuscripts are now in the possession of Miss Currer. Of John Hopkinson and his father George, two interesting papers have been preserved, which we regret that our limits will not permit us to present at length to our readers. They are two letters of protection from the rival commanders in Yorkshire during the civil wars, granted with the view of saving the family from the hostile attempts which the straggling parties of the two armies might be disposed to make upon the persons or the properties of the Hopkinsons. The first letter is from the Marquis of Newcastle, commanding the royal

forces, " to desist from plundering, molesting, pillaging, or any way injuring George Hopkinson, his servants, or family." This letter is dated October 1, 1643. The second letter is from Lord Fairfax, commanding the parliamentarians " to take especial care that Geo. Hopkinson, of Lofthouse, gent. and John Hopkinson, his son, be not plundered, pillaged, or any way injured in any of their goods by those in the service of the parliament." This second letter is dated July 20, 1644. It is pleasing to find two contending parties thus doing homage to virtue and science, and exemplifying some sense of humanity and some deference to literary eminence amidst all the exasperation and horrors of civil war. But we must hasten from this parish which has already detained us too long.

THORP ON THE HILL was an old seat of the family of the Swillingtons, afterwards of the Gascoignes, then of the Ingrams, then of Metcalf Proctor, Esq. and now of the Dealtries; it overlooks a great extent of country to the east, and from its elevated situation is visible from an immense distance. Several moulds have been found here containing Roman coins, the two sides of Alexander Severus and Mammæa.

CARLTON is remarkable for having been the seat of the Hunts, who derived their name, as a singular charter of the age of Edward II. proves, from their devotion to the chace. The family continued in the possession of the estate until the reign of Henry VIII. and one of them granted a license for a chantry in the parish church of Rothwell.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF ROTHWELL.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Rothwell with Rothwell Haigh,	1,689	1,711	2,155	2,638
Middleton, ...	831	906	1,096	976
Oulton with Woodlesford,....	1,223	1,267	1,526	1,496
Thorp,.....	55	66	80	62
Carlton with Lofthouse, ...	798	1,054	1,396	1,463
Total population of the parish of Rothwell, ...				6,635

CHAPTER VII.

WAKEFIELD.

The name of Wakefield is generally considered to have been derived from its first Saxon possessor, and to mean "the field of Wache." However vague and unsatisfactory such an etymology may be, we are compelled to adopt it in the want of a better. Wakefield is thus surveyed in Doomsday Book. "In Wachefield, with nine Berewics, Sandala (Sandal,) Sorebe (Sowerby,) Werla (Warley,) Feslie (Fixby,) Wadesuurde (Wadsworth,) Crumbetonseton (Crumsonden in Heptonstall,) Meclei (Midgley,) Langfelt (Langfield,) Stanesfelt (Stansfield,) there are sixty carucates and three oxgangs and the third part of an oxgang to be taxed. Thirty ploughs may till these lands. This manor was in the demesne of king Edward. There are now in the king's hand four villanes, and three priests, and two churches, and seven sokemen, and sixteen bordars. They together have sixteen ploughs. Wood pasture, six miles long, and four broad. Value in King Edward's time sixty pounds, at present fifteen pounds."* It will be seen then that Wakefield extended over the principal part of what is now the parish of Halifax, that it consequently included a vast extent of country, that its population was exceedingly limited, and that an immense proportion of it was abandoned to the horrors of unmitigated sterility.

At the time of this survey it will further be seen that Wakefield was in the hands of the crown. How the lordship or district was conferred upon the great Earls of Warren cannot be distinctly ascertained; it seems, however, to have been granted to that powerful and renowned family not long after the compilation of Doomsday Book, for the second Earl of Warren, who succeeded to the estates of his father, A. D. 1088, granted the church at Wakefield and the chapel of Horbury, with all their appendages, as well as the church at Halifax, with all its appen-

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, 15.

dages, and the church of Dewsbury and the chapel at Hertshead, with all their appendages, to God and St. Pancras of Lewis. The historian, however, of the Warren family* quotes a passage from a manuscript by Mr. Nalson, in which the writer states that the manor of Wakefield, &c. was parcel of the possessions of the crown of England until the grant of Henry I. to Earl Warren in 1116. With the Warrens the manor of Wakefield remained until the ninth year of the reign of Edward II. when the last Earl having no male issue gave the fee simple of the inheritance of all his lands to the crown, receiving from the king the assignment for life of the manors and castles of Conisborough and Sandal, under the last of which Wakefield was included, together with Dewsbury, Halifax, &c. The object of the Earl of Warren in thus assigning his property to the king, was to obtain a re-grant to his natural children. Thus the king in the following year granted this manor to the Earl and his concubine Maud de Nerford, for life, with remainder to John de Warren, natural son of this Earl by his mistress we have just named, remainder to Thomas, another of her sons, and remainder to the heirs of the said Maud lawfully begotten; and in failure of such issue to revert to the crown. In the twelfth year of Edward II. John Earl of Warren A.D. 1319. granted this lordship to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, but this nobleman, three years afterwards, having been beheaded at the castle of Pontefract for his unsuccessful rebellion, the Earl of Warren again became lord of the manor of Wakefield. This nobleman afterwards married his mistress, she survived both the Earl and his sons, and both retained possession of the manor and held its courts, until her death in the thirty-third year of the reign of Edward III. From her death the manor remained in possession of the crown, until Charles I. granted it to Henry Earl of Holland. He gave it as part of the marriage portion of his daughter, who married Sir Gervase Clifton, of Clifton, in the county of Nottingham. After the lapse of rather more than thirty years, it was sold (1663) to Sir Christopher Clapham, and thirty seven years afterwards it was purchased by the first Duke of Leeds, in whose family it still remains. In the inquisition or survey of the lordship, or honour of Wakefield, in 1577, the townships and all the hamlets included within its limits, are specified with singular accuracy and distinctness. We shall give the enumeration as far as it refers to Wakefield and its neighbour-

* The Rev. Mr. Watson, author of the History of Halifax.

hood. V. Wakefield—V. Stanley, beneath which are placed the hamlets of Ourthorpe, Wrenthorpe, Alverthorpe, Hanchcho, Snapsthorpe, Thorne—V. Horbury—V. Sandale, under which are placed the hamlets of Milnthorpe, Woodthorpe, Newbiggin, Pledwick—V. Crigglestone, after which are placed the hamlets of Kettlethorpe, Chapelthorpe, Boynehill, Daw Green, Dirtcar, Hollenthorpe—V. Walton vill, Over, Nether, Middle, Hamlet Walton, Bretton West cum hamlet ibm—V. Osset and Southwood Green, Gaukthorpe—V. Soothill, Clekinglay, Chitsele, Heaton-Hanging, Earlsheaton. The rest of the enumeration will be given in the history of each of the parishes included in the survey.

We shall now proceed to give several descriptions of Wakefield from the writings of distinguished antiquaries, before we present to the reader the particulars which we have been enabled to collect of the history of the town.

First we shall give the description of old Leland. "Wakefeld upon Calder ys a very quik market towne, and meately large; well served of flesch and fische, both from the se and by rivers, whereof divers be thereabout at hande. So that al vitaile is very good chepe there. A right honest man shal fare wel for two pens a meale. In this towne is but one chefe chirche. There is a chapel beside where was wont to be, anachorita in media urbe, unde et aliquando inventa fœcunda. There is also a chapel of our Ladye on Calder bridge, wont to be celebrated a peregrinis. A forrow lenght or more out of the towne, be scene dikes and bulwarkes, et monticulis egestæ terræ indicium turris specularis—wherby apperith that ther hath bene a castel. The Guarines, Erles of Surrey, as I rede, were ons lordes of the towne. It standeth now al by clothyng——These things I especially noted in Wakefield. The faire bridge of stone of nine arches under the which rennith the river of Calder; and on the est side of this bridge, is a right goodly chapel of our Ladye, and two cantuaric priests founded in it of the fundacion of the townesmen as sum say; but the Dukes of Yorke were taken as founders for obteyning the mortmagne. I harde one say, that a servant of king Edwarde's (the fourth) father or els of the Erle of Rutheland, brother of King Edward the 4th, was a great doer of it. There was a sore batell faught in the south feildes by this bridge; and yn the flite of the Duke of Yorkes parte, other the Duke himself or his sun therle of Rutheland, was slayne a litle above

the barres beyond the bridge going up a clyving ground. At this place is set up a cross in memoriam. The commune saying is there, that the Erle wold have taken ther a poor woman's house for socour, and she for fere shet the dore, and strait the Erle was killed. The Lord Clifford for killing of men at this batail was called the boucher. The principal chirche that now is in Wakefeld, is but of a new worke, but is exceeding faire and large. Sum think that wer as now is a chapel of ease at the other ende of the towne, was ons the old paroch chirche. The vicarage at the este end of the chirche gouble is larg and faire. It was the parsonage house not many yeres syns; for he that now lyvith is the 4 or 5 vicare that hath been ther. Afore the impropriation of this benefice to St. Stephane college at Westminster, the parsonage was a great lyving ynsomuch that one of the Erles Warines Lordes of Wakefield and much of the cuntery thereabout, did give the parsonage to a sunne or nere kinsman of his, and he made the most parte of the house wher the vicarage now is. A quarter of a mile without Wakefeld apperith an hille of erthe cast up, wher sum say that one of Erles Warines began to build, and as faste as he builded violence of winde defaced the work. This is like a fable. Sum say that it was nothing but a wind mille hill. The place is now called Lohill. The towne of Wakefeld streachith out al in lenght by est and west, and hath a faire area for a market place. The building of the towne is meateley faire, moste of tymbre, but sum of stone. Al the hole propech of the towne stondith by course drapery. There be few townes yn the inwarde partes of Yorkshire that hath a fairer site or soile about it. There be plente of veines of se cole in the quarters about Wakefeld."

The second description of this town is that of the celebrated Camden, and in order to preserve his narrative unbroken we shall give his account of Sandal, which he has interwoven with his communication relative to Wakefield. "The Calder washes Wakefield, famous for its woollen manufacture, the largeness of the town, and the beauty of its buildings, its well frequented market on the bridge, on which was erected a most beautiful chapel by Edward IV. in memory of the persons there slain in battle. This town formerly belonged to the Earls of Warren and Surrey, as did also the neighbouring castle of Sandal, built by John Earl of Warren, whose mind was never free from the solicitations of passion to keep here safe from her husband, the wife of Thomas Earl

of Lancaster, with whom he had a criminal connection. Below this town, when England was torn in pieces by civil wars which preyed upon her vitals, among others slain by the Lancastrians fell Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV. who chose rather to force fortune than to wait for her. A very extensive territory round here is called the lordship of Wakefield, and has for its seneschal one of the neighbouring nobility. This office has often been held by the Saviles, whose family is very numerous hereabouts, and is at present engaged by Sir J. Savile, who has a very handsome house not far off at Howley."* To this brief description the continuator of Camden adds, "Wakefield is a large town well situated on the south side of a hill, which inclines to the Calder, here navigable. By the increase of trade and manufactures, it has of late years been much improved, and an act of parliament was obtained, about twelve years ago, for new paving the town, which has caused it to be ornamented with many good houses. In the street at right angles with Kirkgate to the west, are the inns, some good modern houses, with the church which is large and lofty, but the spire too short for the lofty tower."†

The last old topographical description which we shall quote is that of Fuller. After calling the town "Merry Wakefield," he says, "What peculiar cause of mirth this town hath above others I do not know, and dare not too curiously enquire, lest I should turn their mirth among themselves into anger against me. Sure it is seated in a fruitful soil and cheap country; and where good cheer and company are the premises, mirth in common consequence will be the conclusion; which if it doth not trespass in time, cause, and measure, Heraclitus the sad philosopher may perchance condemn, but St. Hilary the good father will surely allow."‡

From these descriptive notices, and from others which we have adduced in the first book of the present work, we may come to the following conclusions relative to the history of Wakefield. There is little doubt that in Roman times there were settlements of that wonderful people in the neighbourhood, (see p. 22,) although not on the site of the town. In the Saxon times the vast extent of its lordship, and the numerous berewics dependant upon it, prove that it must have been a place of considerable consequence. The place to which Leland refers, as "an hill of erthe

* Camden, iii. 5. † Gough, iii. 39. ‡ Worthies in Yorkshire.

caste up," which he calls Lohill, and concerning which he gives the curious tradition which will be found in our quotation from his works, the writer has no doubt was of Saxon erection, and points out the existence of a rude fortification, in the time of that barbarous and sanguinary people. When the great earls of Warren became the lords of the neighbourhood, they would in all probability extend their patronage and protection to the town and its inhabitants, and under their fostering care, there is every reason to believe that it rapidly extended in population and consequence. Of Sandal Castle we have already stated the origin; one event of some historic interest may be recorded concerning it in the reign of Edward III. When that powerful monarch had collected a fleet and an army, to reinstate Baliol upon the throne of Scotland, from which he had been driven by the valour and patriotism of the Bruce, Sandal Castle was assigned to the ex-monarch as a residence, here he remained in tranquillity with the Countess of Vesay, for six months, until he joined the expedition, the fate of which terminated at once his hopes and his life. Two other particulars which occurred in the same reign may be mentioned of Wakefield, although one of them belongs rather to the department of ecclesiastical than civil history. By a charter dated 1357, Edward III. granted to William Kay, William Bull, and their successors for ever, the annual sum of ten pounds, to perform divine service in the Chapel of St. Mary, on the bridge at Wakefield; and payment was secured from the produce of the towns of Wakefield, Stanley, Osset, Pontefract, Purston-Jackling, and Water-Fryston. And five years afterwards, when the same monarch created his son Edmund de Langley, the Earl of Cambridge, he assigned to him in augmentation of his revenue, the manor and soke of Wakefield, with the remainder to John de Gandacum and his heirs, and after them to Lionel de Antwerp and his heirs male. This town then in these feudal times must often have presented a most lively and animating scene, when visited by proud barons and their mailed retainers with all their military magnificence, performing perhaps their devotions in the chapel on the bridge, displaying all the pomp and splendour of their power, and exercising their prowess in the knightly exercises of the tournament. That the fierce diversions of the latter were exhibited at Wakefield, is evident from one very curious and interesting circumstance. In the twenty-second year of his reign, Edward III. granted a pardon under the great seal to Sir Richard de Goldesborough,

Sir John de Calverley, and certain other knights, for holding justs at Wakefield contrary to his inhibition.

The author of Loidis and Elmete, has given to his readers an inquisition of the demesnes belonging to the castle of Sandal, taken in the time of the last Earl Warren. From this document the following curious particulars are extracted. In the neighbourhood of the castle, there was a fish pond, but it was worth nothing, because all the attempts of the owners to stock it were rendered abortive, by some peculiar quality in the water. The meadow ground in the neighbourhood of the castle was in an open field, and was valued at five shillings per acre, the pasture ground was inclosed, and was worth only six pence per acre. And a fishery, consisting of a mill pond of four acres, was worth more by almost one third per acre, than the best meadow ground.

It would appear that the jurisdiction of the lords of the manor of Wakefield, was very extensive in feudal times, and that they had the power of inflicting capital punishment on offenders, for the Earls of Warren had *Furcæ* or a gallows, at Wakefield, and the lords had the superintendence of that execrable gibbet law, which remained in force at Halifax until the reign of Charles II.

Although another particular relative to Wakefield, has been worn almost threadbare by repetition, it would be an unpardonable omission not to insert it in this work. Roger Hoveden, himself a Yorkshireman, relates, that in 1201, Eustace, abbot of Hay, in Normandy, came into England preaching the duty of extending the Sabbath from three o'clock on Saturday Afternoon, to sun rising on Monday Morning, for which he pleaded the authority of an epistle written by Christ, and found on the altar of St. Simon, at Golgotha. The people of Yorkshire were however too intelligent to give credence to so bungling an imposture, and they treated the fanatical monk as he deserved, but the historian at the same time records the following prodigious invention, as a matter of fact—he affirms that the miller of Wakefield, persisting to grind his corn after the appointed hour of cessation, the corn was turned into blood, so as to fill a large vessel, while the mill wheel stood immovable against all the water in the Calder.

We have already (see p. 41,) given a full account of the dreadful battle which was fought in the neighbourhood of Wakefield, between the Yorkists and the Lancastrians in the sanguinary war of the Roses, and the murderous transactions which took

place on the bridge. To that account we shall only add, that Sandal Castle must at that period have been very extensive, as well as strongly fortified; for if the language of our historians is to be taken in an unqualified sense, it would seem that the several thousand men who constituted the army of the duke of York, all found shelter before the battle within its walls, and might there have defied the utmost fury of their enemies. Of this castle, which, from its proximity to Wakefield, is included within its history, we shall give the following particulars, and then dismiss the subject. Sandal Castle was granted by the crown to Sir Edward Carey, knight, and was by him conveyed to Sir John Savile, of Howley, knight, afterwards Lord Savile, and he conveyed it to William Savile, of Wakefield, and John Hanson, of Woodhouse. It was afterwards in the hands of the Beaumonts of Whitley, for in the 14th of Charles I. Thomas Beaumont, Esq. of Whitley, sold his park at Sandal, with all the appurtenances and rights connected with it as parcel of the annexed possessions of the duchy of Lancaster, and late parcel of the lands and possessions of the county of York, and also a demolished and ruinous building called Sandal Castle, &c. &c. to John Pollard, servant to Francis Nevile, of Chevet, Esq. and to the said Francis for the sum of eleven hundred and ten pounds. Prior to this period, Sandal Castle was the occasional residence of the Saviles of Thornhill, in whom according to the testimony of Camden, the office of steward was almost hereditary.

In the reign of Henry VIII. Wakefield was unquestionably by far the largest, the most populous, and the most flourishing town in the district. Bradford and Leeds at this period we have already seen were of equal magnitude, though the former was the more lively and prosperous of the two. But Wakefield was double the size of either of them. And from the very curious, though apparently insignificant circumstance that fish was brought at that period from the sea, as a usual article of the food of the inhabitants, it may be concluded that they were richer and more accustomed to luxury than their neighbours. The fertility of the soil, the abundance of its produce, and the cheapness of provisions, are celebrated by each of the writers we have quoted; and there can be little doubt that Wakefield, at the period we are alluding to, was the most eligible place of residence in the whole West Riding of Yorkshire. From the language of Leland, more particularly, it is evident that the town was respectable in its

appearance, houses of stone had begun to supersede the old buildings of timber and plaister, and the progressive improvement of the place testified to the spirit and comparative opulence of the people. Of the old style of building in Wakefield, the most interesting memorial is Heselden Hall, near the site of the old St. John's Chapel, so called because it was the residence of a family of that name, so early as the reign of Henry VI. It is principally formed of timber, and has a double corridor of wood, which once surrounded the whole interior quadrangle, the hall is a fine timber apartment open to the roof, and in the great window are still the remains of arms painted on glass.

The town of Wakefield suffered very severely in the seventeenth century from the ravages of the plague. From the parish register it appears to have commenced its devastations in August 1625, and to have continued there until January 1626. During that period, there are entries of more than one hundred and thirty persons, each of whom is distinguished as having died *per pest em*, or *de peste*. In August 1645, the plague again made its appearance, and continued in the town for twelve months, during which time more than two hundred of the victims were buried in the old church yard, besides others who died in the neighbourhood and were buried where they died.

While referring to the parish register of Wakefield, we shall present to our readers three extracts from that compilation, which although of no very material consequence, will yet be amusing and interesting to the inhabitants of the town. The first extract will shew the solemn pomposity with which the clergy of the period were accustomed to issue their preposterous licences, to authorise some privileged individuals to eat meat in Lent and all other fasting and fish days. There are two licences of this description contained in the register, one of which we shall give entire. "To all people to whom these presents shall come, James Lister, vicar of Wakefeld and preacher of God's word, sendeth greeting; Whereas Alice Lister, wife of Richard Lister, Clerke, who now sojourneth with her sonne William Faulden of Wakefeld, by reason of her olde age and many yeares and stubborne and long continued sicknesse, is become so weake and her stomache so colde, not able to digeste colde meates and fish, who by counsel of phisicians is advised to abstaine from and to forbeare the eating of all manner of fruites, fish and milke meates, know ye therefore, for the causes aforesaide and for the better strengthen-

ing and recovering of her health, I, the saide James Lister, do herebye give and grante libertie and licence to her, the said Alice Lister, att her will and pleasure att all tymes, as well during the tyme of Lent, and all other fasting daies and fish daies exhibiting by the lawes, to eate flesh and to dress and eate such kind of flesh as shall be best agreeing to her stomacke and weake appetite. In witness hereof, I, the said James Lister have hereunto sett my hand the eight daie of Februarie in ye sixt yeare of the reigne of oure Sovereigne Lord Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, defender of the faithe, &c. and in the year of our Lord God 1630. James Lister, Vicar." This is a specimen of the manners of that age well worth preserving. Abstinence from meat in Lent and on fasting days was, by the common run of the people of the age, regarded as essential to an admission into the kingdom of heaven—and the clergy who then were indeed the guides and directors of an ignorant multitude, could alone enable the slaves of superstition to partake of animal food on these prohibited seasons without violating the dictates of conscience and religion. The mockery of solemnity, the ecclesiastical dignity, and the assumption of majesty which this licence exhibits, must be highly amusing to its readers.

The second extract shall be the certificate of the appointment of a registrar: "Theise may certifie, that upon ye one and twentieth day of September instant, the inhabitants of ye paresh of Wakefeild did meet in Wakefeild church, and ye greater number of them there present did make choise of and elect James Child of Wakefeild, to be Regester of the Paresh of Wakefeild, according to the acte of Parliament in that behalfe, provided of whome I do here signifie my approbation, being a Justice of the Peace within ye said Parish of Wakefeild, and accordingly hath sworne him Regester for the saide paresh. Witnesse my hand y^e^ xxii day of September 1653. John Savile." Here then is another proclamation in royal style for the appointment of a parish Registrar. Truly our forefathers were wont to be wonderfully solemn upon the most paltry occasions.

The third extract will prove the antiquity of the office of Waits or town's musicians in Wakefield. "Memorandum y^t^ ye Waites of this towne of Wakefeild began their watch upon ye 17th day of October in ye yeare of Lord God 1670; theire names are as followeth, Wm. Shaw, Thomas Shaw, and Thomas Watson, fratres in une."

In the first part of this work we have given a full account of the share which Wakefield had in the transactions and calamities of the civil war between Charles I. and the parliament. To the narrative we have already given we can only add, that whatever interruption this contest may have caused the progress and prosperity of the town, it was soon repaired, the inhabitants again returned to their commercial pursuits, and Wakefield soon presented the appearance of one of the most flourishing, industrious, and happy places in the country.

The act of parliament which was obtained in 1698, by which the Calder was made navigable to Wakefield, as well as the Aire to Leeds, by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company, materially subserved the convenience and the prosperity of the town, while the act for lighting and paving, obtained in the middle of the following century, contributed to the beauty and uniformity of its appearance.

We shall now throw together a number of miscellaneous particulars relative to occurrences which have transpired in Wakefield to the present day. In 1714 one third of the spire of the church was blown down by a tremendous tempest, and it was not completely restored until many years afterwards. In 1778 the inhabitants, desirous of enjoying tintinabulary harmony in their passage to their respective places of worship on Sunday, and of arousing the echoes of the neighbourhood to notes of joy on all occasions of public exultation, empowered the church wardens to contract with Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of London, to exchange the old bells which were hung in 1739, for a new peal of eight, the tenor to weigh twenty-four hundred weight, and the rest in proportion. These bells were displaced in 1817 by the present musical peal of ten bells from the foundry of Mr. Mears of London, who on that occasion presented the church wardens with a peal of twelve hand bells for the use of the ringers for the time being.

The year 1765 was an important era in the history of Wakefield, for on the twenty-seventh of March in that year was held the *first fortnight cattle and sheep fair*. The success of this institution aroused the envy of the vicinity. On the second of April, 1766, the inhabitants of Adwalton gave a decisive proof of their hostility, and attempted to preserve their own interests by sacrificing those of Wakefield. They published a pompous proclamation, in which they declared that the institution of a new

fair was illegal, and they announced their determination to bring actions at law against all persons by whom such intended meetings at Wakefield should be held, "because they would be highly prejudicial to the neighbouring fairs and markets at Adwalton," which they stated to be held by virtue of a royal charter. The people at Wakefield took no notice of this useless blustering, they were fully aware of the vastly superior advantages of their situation for all the purposes of general traffic, and they have witnessed the gradual advance of their market and fair in consequence and value, while that at Adwalton has constantly diminished in importance, although it is still frequented by a considerable number of dealers and purchasers.

This will be the proper place to refer to a proceeding of a somewhat similar, but of a much more important character, which occurred at a much later period. Wakefield, like Leeds and many other large towns, is cursed with a Soke imposed in ages when the general rights of the people were completely disregarded, when the most absurd monopolies were instituted, and the most injurious restrictions were imposed for the emolument of the few at the expense of the advantage of the many. Since the jurisdiction of the soke at Wakefield is very extensive, the grievance excited continual murmuring, and at length produced a formal resistance. The inhabitants of Osset and Gawthorpe particularly signalized themselves by their attempt to deliver themselves from the galling burden, and they adopted legal means to secure their emancipation. In 1816, in two causes tried in the Duchy Court of Lancaster, they were released from the operation of the soke; both Mr. Justice Bayley, Mr. Baron Richards, and the Chancellor of the Duchy, uniting in the conclusion, that although their ancestors had suffered the imposition, they were not legally liable to its influence. But this decision was by no means final. The cause was dragged through a long process of tedious and expensive litigation, and the proceedings were not brought to a conclusion until 1826. In the month of March in that year, the cause was determined at York, before Mr. Justice Bayley and a special jury, in favour of the soke, by a verdict for the plaintiffs—Sir Edward Dodsworth, Bart. Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth, Esq. Sir William Pilkington, Bart. and Jose Luis Fernandez the miller. The defendants were William Ingham, Charles Adams, and Joseph Smith, Esquires, of Ossett. The places which the plaintiffs applied to have declared as within

the limits of the soke were, Horbury, Ossett cum Gawthorpe, Alverthorpe cum Thornes, Wakefield, Stanley cum Wrenthorpe, Sandal, Crigglestone, and New Miller Dam—and the verdict decided that the inhabitants of all these places were to be compelled to grind their corn whether for their own domestic consumption, or as an article of trade at the Soke Mills. This is one of the grossest injuries and one of the most offensive hardships which can possibly be imposed upon an industrious and trading community; and it would be well for the country at large if some equitable and final measure could be devised for the complete abolition of these offensive monopolies, which could only be imposed by ignorance and selfishness, and can no longer be endured in an enlightened age. This decision has saddled a vast number of individuals with shameful losses and intolerable inconvenience.

Wakefield Bridge is a very handsome and striking edifice, the masonry is most excellent, on account of the great width of the Calder, it is very long, consisting of eight arches, it was built in the reign of Edward III. and is a very fine specimen of the civil architecture of the age. The ancient chapel in the centre of this bridge, projecting from the eastern side into the watercourse, ornamented with the richest decorations of pointed architecture, and certainly one of the most beautiful edifices in the kingdom, will be described in its proper place in this work, and the controversy upon the subject of its origin will be clearly stated to the reader. The manor house near the church is undeserving of remark. The rectory house is a very extensive building of brick and stone, recently occupied as a ladies' boarding school; and the vicarage house, of which we have already given Leland's description, is close by the rectory house in the lower part of the vicarage croft. In 1769, several additions were made to it, and a subscription was raised to put it into complete repair, the names of the donors are recorded on a tablet fixed against a pillar in the chancel of the church. The vicarage croft is now used as a burying ground. This leads us to notice the change which has taken place in Wakefield relative to the interment of the dead. The church yard, though it must have been originally very large when compared with the size of the town, soon became insufficient for the increasing population, and accordingly other places of sepulture were obliged to be provided. Besides them, during the time of the plague, it appears that many of its victims were interred

near the places where they died, this was particularly the case in the neighbourhood of Potovens, a small hamlet about two miles from the town. There was a well to which the people flocked under the hope of experiencing some healing properties of its water, which had been celebrated by tradition. Many had their graves near this well, where remains have been found within a few years. There was also a burying ground in or near what is called the Fall Ings over the bridge, and notices of burials at this place are to be found in the parish register. Several nonconformists were buried in a piece of ground which is now a garden attached to the house of Mr. Spicer, in Kirkgate, and at the time when this house was built by the late Frances Maude, Esq. were found several tombstones recording the names of those whose bodies were there deposited. That piece of ground which adjoins the rectory and vicarage houses, had for several years been used, through permission of the different vicars, as an additional burial ground, and on the 22nd of February, this ground was conveyed by the Rev. S. Sharp, the vicar, to certain trustees for the use of the inhabitants, in exchange for upwards of two acres of land on Wakefield Outwood, in the graveship of Alverthorpe, near Alverthorpe-lane-end, and for the tithes thereof for the use of himself and his successors. The ground was consecrated by the archbishop of York, and is now commonly used as a place of interment.*

And here we must remark that the inhabitants of the towns in this district, though distinguished by the very laudable attention they have paid to the improvement of their respective localities, seem to have completely overlooked the existence of one odious practice, which deserves to be designated a nuisance offensive to the sight and injurious to the health, and that is the practice of having their places for the burial of the dead in the centre of their towns. These places, with strange inconsistency, are generally fixed in the midst of the densest population and the most crowded neighbourhoods, it is scarcely possible to inter a corpse without disturbing the relics of the entombed, the most revolting scenes are consequently frequently witnessed, and the surrounding atmosphere has been loaded with a pestiferous effluvium. The burying grounds both of Leeds and Wakefield, and especially of the former, are particularly liable to these observations. How much better would it be if the custom prevailing in

* Sisson's Historical Sketch of Wakefield Church, 71.

some continental countries was adopted in England, if our burial grounds were all in the neighbourhood, instead of being in the centre of the towns, if thus sufficient space were to be afforded to prevent the intolerable nuisances to which we have alluded, if thus the danger of generating or increasing contagion were to be avoided, and if the grounds in which the last melancholy offices of kindness are performed to the remains of the departed, like the Necropolis near Liverpool, were to be laid out in a style corresponding with their mournful purpose, and with the feelings of those by whom they are visited.

The greatest improvement that ever was effected in the town and neighbourhood of Wakefield, was the erection of St. John's Church and the neighbouring houses. Although the reader must be referred for an account of the church to the next book, it may here be stated, that the ground upon which it stands was left by legacy for the purpose by a widow lady, of the name of Newstead, together with a thousand pounds to assist in the support of a minister.* The accomplishment of her object, however, was

* While we are referring to the affairs of the church in Wakefield we shall present to our readers a document which may be highly useful to them in the way of reference, and without which this account of Wakefield would be very incomplete. It is the terrier of the Tithes. "A true and perfect Copy of the Terrier, of all the houses, rights, &c. belonging to the Vicarage of Wakefield, given in at the primary visitation of the most Reverend Father in God, Edward, by Divine Providence, Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitan, holden at Wakefield, the 23rd day of June, 1809.—By the present Vicar, Churchwardens and other substantial inhabitants of the same, whose names are hereunto subscribed. A Vicarage House, now built with stone and brick, and covered with stone, containing thirteen rooms, kitchen, brew-house, cellar, a stable and hay chamber, built with brick and covered with stone. A garden and a croft adjoining, together about one acre, fenced with part stone and part brick wall. *Also* another little Croft or Paddock at the back of the house, containing about one rood, and lying between a close and a garden belonging to Peregrine Wentworth, Esq. fenced with part pailed and part brick wall, and one part hedged. *Also* a moiety of the Cliffield Tythe given to the Vicarage by the last will and testament of Wm. Dennison, Gent. *Also* the interest of £100, given by Edward Watkinson out of a house or houses now occupied by Mr. Thos. Crowther and Tenants in Westgate. *Also* the fifth part of some lands given by Richard Wilson, which is at present one pound six shillings and ten pence per ann. *Also* by the impropriators by virtue of an award in a controversy between them and a former Vicar, concerning the Chancel, forty shillings yearly, to be paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas, equal payments. *Also* a composition for Tythe Herbage of a piece of ground lying near Kirkthorpe on the other side of the river, called Deffers, five shillings, to be paid at Easter, yearly, now in the occupation of John Smyth, Esq. *Also* by

a long time delayed, by a vexatious litigation; but when the property of the testatrix was purchased by Messrs. Maude & Lee,

the will of Mr. Smyth, late of Heath, for preaching Two Charity Sermons, one in June, the other in December, and for catechising the charity children, forty shillings per annum. *Also* in pursuance of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the thirty third year of his present Majesty, entitled an Act for dividing and inclosing the open common fields, ings, commons and waste grounds, within the townships or graveships of Wakefield, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Thornes, in the Parish of Wakefield, in the West-Riding of the County of York, the following allotments were by the Commissioners under the said inclosure, set out and awarded to the Vicar of Wakefield, in lieu of all vicarial or small tythes and ecclesiastical dues, moduses, compositions, or other payments in lieu of vicarial or small tythes and of all tythes of what nature or kind soever, (mortuaries, easter offerings and surplice fees excepted) which arise and grow due to the Vicar within the said town or townships, No. 90 on the plan containing 5A. 1R. 27P. situate upon Whinney Moor, bounded eastward by old inclosures, westward by Horbury road, and southward by Thornes road. Also No. 479, containing 9A. 0R. 5P. situate upon the Outwood, near Carr Gate, bounded eastward and southward by an allotment intended to be awarded to the Duke of Leeds, westward by Lawns, and southward by old inclosures, and an allotment intended to be awarded to the Duke of Leeds. Also, No. 505 containing 80A. 1R. 0P. (which includes an incroachment, containing 0A. 2R. 13P.) situate upon the Outwood, near Spring Well Hill, bounded eastward by Potovens road and allotments intended to be severally accorded to John Woollen and Ann his wife, Mary Bethia Horton, John Milnes, the Rev. Isaac Tyson, and Mary Bethia his wife, and Thomas Johnson and Martha his wife, William Sharp, Joseph Young, Samuel Smalpage and the Duke of Leeds, westward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to the Duke of Leeds and John Eadon, northward by the coal road and allotments intended to be severally awarded to George Waugh, Eliz. Smithson, Thomas Beaumont, Richard Collet, Joseph Holdsworth, and Thomas Chippendale (in trust for John Gill,) and Shepley Watson, and southward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to Matthew Harper, Robert Pearson, Tho, and Wm. Tew, John Woollen and Ann his wife, Mary Bethia Horton, John Milnes, the Rev. Isaac Tyson and Mary Bethia his wife, Thomas Johnson and Martha his wife, Samuel Land, the Duke of Leeds and John Eadon. Also No. 609 containing 50A. 1R. 0P. (which includes an incroachment containing 1A. 1R. 9P.) situate on the Outwood near the Lawns, bounded eastward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to the devisees of Joseph Issot, John Ridsdale, the Trustees of Stanley and Alverthorpe Poor, the Duke of Leeds and Lingwell Gate Road, westward by Lawns Road and allotments intended to be severally awarded for clay for the roads, the Duke of Leeds, John Parker and old inclosures, northward by Lawns road and allotments intended to be severally awarded to the Duke of Leeds and John Ridsdale, and southward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to Benjamin Mitchell, William Brittlebank, the devisees of David Dunny, Messrs. John Lee, Shepley Watson, and Joseph Armytage, Robert Pearson, William Beal, the Trustees of Stanley and Alverthorpe Poor, John Parker, the Duke of Leeds, Elizabeth Harrison and Grand Stand Road. Also No. 837 containing 17A. 3R. 30P. situate upon the Outwood

those gentlemen, in concurrence with some other benevolent and opulent individuals, procured an act of parliament for building the church. This very elegant sacred edifice is connected with a handsome square and place, which for beauty of situation, elevation of buildings, regulation of plan, and tasteful arrangment of ground, is equal, if not superior, to any thing of the kind in the county of York.

The public buildings in Wakefield are very numerous, and some of them are eminently deserving of attention. The House of Correction, at the bottom of Westgate, to which criminals are sent as the common gaol of the West Riding, includes an immense extent of buildings, which however large and however

near Cockpit Houses, bounded eastward by Lee Moor Road and the Township of Stanley, westward by Cockpit Houses Road, northward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to the Duke of Leeds, Thomas Pepper, Joseph Spink and the Township of Stanley, and southward by Upper Lake Lock Road, and the Township of Stanley. Also No. 867 containing 13A. 3R. 35P. situate upon the Outwood near Cockpit Houses, bounded eastward by an allotment intended to be awarded to Lady Irwin, westward by Lee Moor Road, northward by Irwin's road, and southward by an allotment intended to be awarded to the proprietors of the coal road. Also No. 886 containing 17A. 1R. 21P. situate upon the Outwood near Cockpit Houses, bounded eastward by an allotment intended to be awarded to the Duke of Leeds, westward by Upper Lake Lock Road, and an allotment intended to be awarded to Messrs. John Lee and Shepley Watson, northward by allotments intended to be severally awarded to the Proprietors of the Coal Road and Messrs. John Lee and Shepley Watson, and southward by Lower Lake Lock Road. Also the tythe of all the fruits of gardens, orchards and crofts, together with mortuaries, surplice dues, easter offerings and small tythes, (excepting wool) throughout the Chapelry of Horbury. Also the Church Furniture, consisting of eight bells, a clock and chimes, organ, three large and seven small brass candlesticks.—Also the communion plate, viz. One large silver flaggon, gilt; *The gift of Mrs. Hannah Redshaw to Wakefield Church, the 25th Dec.* 1723. One large silver flaggon, gilt, *Magno Dei Triuni, Thomæ Scott, indigni hujus Ecclesiæ Vicarii donarium: Cujus animæ omniumque ex hoc poculo dignè bibentium propitius sit Deus.* One large silver flaggon, gilt, *Deo et Ecclesiæ de Wakefield*, 1743. Two small silver flaggons, *Wakefield*, 1767. One silver cup, "*The words which I speak are spirit and life.*" St. John, vi. 63. One silver cup, "*My blood is drink indeed,*" St. John, vi. 55. A cup and salver, 1740. One large Silver Dish 47 oz. 10 dwts. *Deo et Ecclesiæ de Wakefield D.D.D Gulielmus Malin, M.B. & P. Anno Domini*, 1690. One salver, "*My flesh is meat indeed,*" St. John, vi. 55. One ditto, "*Jesus said I am the bread of Life,*" St. John vi. 48. All the above plate are silver and gilt; total 464 oz. 18 dwts. The Church and Church Yard Fence are repaired at the charge of the Parish, excepting the South and Middle Chancel, the former of which is repaired by the family of Mr. Pilkington late of Stanley, and the other by the Impropriators of the Great Tythes. The Clerk and Sexton paid by the Parish and appointed by the Vicar.

commodious, are generally filled with the unhappy beings whose crimes have rendered them amenable to the laws of their country. The regulations under which this establishment is conducted are deservedly regarded as exhibiting at once the humanity and the wisdom of their authors, but it will be long before these establishments effectually subserve the prevention, as well as the punishment of crime. The Court House in Wood Street is a very beautiful and commodious structure. Its front consists of a very noble portico of four fluted Doric columns, supporting an entablature and pediment; within the pediment are the royal arms, and on the apex is a statue of justice; the interior arrangements are very complete, and admirably adapted for its purpose—the administration of justice by the West Riding Magistrates in the neighbourhood once a week, and the holding of the Quarter Sessions of the Riding once a year. A little to the south east of the Court House are The Public Buildings, a neat structure, with a rustic basement and attached Ionic columns to the upper story, the basement contains a library and news-room, while the upper story contains an excellent room adapted for concerts, assemblies, and other public amusements. The Public Buildings were erected by subscription. The Corn Exchange, placed in a commanding situation at the top of Westgate, is well adapted to the first Corn Market in the North of England, and does honour to the taste and spirit of its projectors and proprietors. The Tammy Hall, for the exhibition and sale of woollen stuffs, in Wood Street, is little used for its original purpose, the stuff trade having migrated from Wakefield to Halifax and Bradford, especially to the latter place. The cattle fair is held in the Upper Ings, a place which is admirably adapted for the purpose. The theatre in Westgate, which was built by the celebrated Tate Wilkinson, scarcely deserves a single observation. The market-place, though of very limited dimensions and scarcely corresponding with the importance of the town, has in its centre a handsome Doric cross, with a dome supported by an open colonnade, and containing a spacious apartment, in which the commissioners of the streets hold their meetings and other public business is transacted. The Lunatic Asylum on East Moor, opened Nov. 23, 1818, which is one of the principal ornaments of the county, the Dispensary, the House of Recovery, the Grammar School founded in 1592, and the Charity School, will be described in their proper places in the subsequent parts of this work.

The inhabitants of Wakefield have rivalled those of the rest of the towns in the district in their public spirited attention to general improvement and convenience. They have supported a newspaper since 1803, under the title of the Wakefield and Halifax Journal, they have established almost every institution which can subserve the cause of piety and benevolence, they have formed a Gas Company which commenced operations on January 20th, 1823, they have a savings' bank for the benefit of the poor, their schools are numerous and liberally supported, and the inhabitants are generally distinguished by their solicitude to promote the great objects of social and moral excellence.

Wakefield has not increased in population and prosperity in the same ratio with the other towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire, nor has its trade so rapidly extended. A dreadful shock was given to the prosperity of this town by the failure of the bank of Messrs. Wentworth, Chaloner, and Rishworths in 1825, from which the town has not yet recovered, and some disastrous events of a similar description which have since occurred, have contributed to the same result. Yet the trade of Wakefield in corn and cattle and wool is very extensive; there is very considerable wealth in the town and its neighbourhood; there is a more general diffusion of comfort than in most other places in the district, and both the appearance of the town and the manners of the inhabitants are indubitably superior to those of the places which are exclusively peopled by clothiers. It must be mentioned in conclusion that the inland trade of Wakefield by means of the Aire and Calder navigation, and the Calder and Hebble navigation, is immense.

The inhabitants of Wakefield have generally been distinguished by their impartial intelligence, and their enlightened submission to the laws; and there has perhaps been less political excitement in this town than in any other in the district. During the wars of the French revolution, their loyalty was displayed in the well appointed corps of volunteers which they armed and equipped for the defence of the country, and in their steady attachment to the cause of patriotism and national independence. There have been fewer explosions of popular violence in this town than in any other part of the province which forms the subject of our investigations. Wakefield was constituted a borough of the second class under the reform act, and was endowed with the privilege of sending one member to parliament. At the election in

1832, no opposition was attempted against Mr. Gaskell, who was returned without any of the usual clashing of party violence and public opinion, and his conduct in the House of Commons has hitherto accorded with the interests, and has justified the choice of his constituents.

The ravages of the cholera in Wakefield in 1832 were by no means formidable, except in the House of Correction, where the number and the previously vicious habits of many of the inmates rendered them peculiarly liable to such a visitation.

The delightful situation, the beautiful environs, the general cleanliness, the width of the streets, the excellence of the buildings, and the spirit of refinement, intelligence, hospitality, and religion of the inhabitants, all combine to render Wakefield by far the most agreeable town in this district, and to render it inferior to none of equal extent and equal population in the kingdom.

ALVERTHORPE WITH THORNES constitutes a township, and in each of the villages a new church has been erected by the commissioners. These edifices will be described in the next book. The Yorkshire Dissenters' Grammar School at Silcoates House, an institution of great importance and utility, will also be referred to in our Literary Department, together with the Free School at Alverthorpe founded in 1788.

HORBURY is delightfully situated on the summit of a hill, commanding a most extensive and beautiful prospect. There is no doubt that it was a place of importance in Saxon times; its name denotes the castle of Hor, its Saxon proprietor or founder, and the remains of the fort are still discernible near the mill. We shall shortly have occasion to allude to the extraordinary munificence of Mr. Carr, a native of Horbury, and one of the most eminent architects of his age, who, in the new church, erected under his direction and at his expense, has left behind him a durable monument of his taste and munificence.

STANLEY WITH WRENTHORPE is only remarkable for its new church, erected under the auspices of the parliamentary commissioners. In this township is the field celebrated in traditional history as the place where Robin Hood, Little John, and Scarlet, fought the Pinder of Wakefield; the place is yet called Pinder's Field. We have already referred to the fact that a Roman station formerly existed at this place.

In 1697, at Lingwell Gate, in this township, were found a number of clay moulds for Roman coins, all of such emperors in

whose reigns the money is known to have been counterfeited. There is no doubt that the place has taken its name from the Lingones, quartered at Olicana, and wall, a corruption of vallum. Mr. Pitt, of Wakefield, in March 1821, presented to the Society of Antiquaries a number of similar clay moulds, which were turned up by a plough, and of which as many were found as would have filled a wheelbarrow. Several coins were found in the moulds. The same gentleman at the same time sent to the same society sixteen Roman copper coins, found in an earthen vessel in a field about a mile from Lingwell Gate, on the estate of the Marquess of Hertford.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF WAKEFIELD.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Alverthorpe with Thornes, ..	3,105	3,756	4,448	4,859
Horbury, ...	2,101	2,356	2,475	2,400
Stanley with Wrenthorpe, ..	3,260	3,769	4,620	5,047
Wakefield, ...	8,131	8,593	10,764	12,232
Total, ...				24,538

CHAPTER VIII.

THE PARISHES OF DEWSBURY, ARDSLEY, BATLEY, AND WOODCHURCH.

SECTION I. THE PARISH OF DEWSBURY.

THE ancient fame of Dewsbury arises from ecclesiastical and not from civil events, and therefore belongs rather to the second than the first book of our work. In Saxon times it was one of the most extensive and important parishes in England, comprising an area of four hundred miles, and including what are now the parishes of Thornhill, Burton, Almondbury, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, Bradford, Mirfield, and Halifax, extending in fact to the confines of Lancashire and the borders of the parish of Whalley. With the preaching of Paulinus, the success of his efforts, and the baptism of an immense number of Saxon barbarians, the present book has no connexion, these facts will be found described in our subsequent pages. We have only to state at present that the dignity of Dewsbury involved no great extent of population, no remarkable affluence, and no certain and evident prosperity. For we shall soon see that the population was limited, the value of the place by no means equalled that of most of its neighbours, and long before the age of the Conquest, Dewsbury was in a state of progressive decline.

It has been conjectured, and apparently on good grounds, that the Romans had some small establishment at Dewsbury. A Roman spear was found some years ago upon the estate of Mr. Halliley; and in 1821, when an excavation was made for the purpose of laying some foundations for offices, a small building of stone was discovered, covered with a strong arch, about three feet below the surface of the ground; and at a short distance from the building an ancient well walled round with masonry, about eight yards deep, filled up with rubble stones, and supposed to have

remained for many centuries in a state of obscurity and uselessness.

The following account is given of Dewsbury in Doomsday Book. "Likewise in Deusberia, there are three carucates to be taxed, which two ploughs may till. This land belongs to Wakefield, yet King Edward had in it a manor. It now belongs to the king, and there are six villanes and two bordars with four ploughs, a priest and a church. The whole manor is four quarentens long and six broad. In the time of King Edward the value was ten shillings, the same now."* Dewsbury then, though the centre of so extensive a parish, must have become a mean and a miserable place, with a church, the monument of its ancient importance in the time which followed the preaching of Paulinus, and a single priest to administer the ordinances of religion.

With all due deference to those antiquarians who have supposed that the name of Dewsbury is exclusively derived from its first Saxon proprietor, we cannot but believe that it obtained its designation from the success and the residence of Paulinus, and that from thence it was called Duis-borough, God's town. This supposition is rendered almost certain by the orthography of the word in Doomsday Book. Upon this subject old Camden says, "Leaving these, the Calder passes by Kirklees, once a nunnery, and the burying place of that most generous robber, Robert Hood, makes its way to Dewsborough, situate under a high hill. Whether it takes its name from Dui, the local deity before mentioned, the name certainly implies as much, signifying Dui's town, and it was considerable in the infancy of the rising church among the Saxons in this province."† The Saxon antiquities at Dewsbury we have already described, (see p. 34.) Whatever was the consequence of the town in the early part of Saxon history, it appears, for some reasons which cannot now be conjectured, to have very rapidly decayed; from the persons said to have been resident in it at the time of the Conquest, its population appears at that period to have consisted of not more than eighty individuals; it became in a great measure subordinate to Wakefield, and it has only been within the last century that it has arisen into commercial opulence and importance. For these facts it is difficult to account. It is placed in the fruitful valley of the Calder, whose navigable stream now subserves its convenience and its wealth, and its central and most eligible situation might

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 16. † Cam. Brit. iii. 5.

have been supposed likely to have preserved and increased its consequence.

Dewsbury, like Wakefield, was an ancient demesne of the crown, it came into the family of the Earls of Warren about the reign of Henry I. and the rectory, like several other of the great Saxon benefices, had a manor attached to it, which until the last half century has been distinguished by the name of the rectory manor.

We are informed in the history of the county of York,* that a superstitious practice of very considerable antiquity still exists here, which consists in ringing the large bell of the church at midnight on Christmas eve, and this knell is called the devil's passing bell. This practice is undoubtedly a relic of papal superstition, and most probably originated in some invention or imposture of monkery, greedily received by a credulous people, although its character and object have long since been forgotten.

In the history of Dewsbury there is less to interest than in any other town in the district. It appears to have continued in comparative insignificance until the commencement of the eighteenth century, when the population of the neighbourhood began rapidly to increase, and valuable and successful manufactures were introduced. A charter for a market was obtained at Dewsbury in 1740, and the extension of the navigation of the Calder to Salter Hebble, in 1760, must have been a decisive epoch in the commercial prosperity of the town. Since that auspicious period, the communication of Dewsbury, by means of canals, has been immensely extended, it now reaches not only to the eastern but to the western sea, and goods can not only be forwarded by this very eligible conveyance to Wakefield, to Leeds, to Selby, and to Hull, but to Huddersfield, to Manchester, and to all the commercial emporiums of Lancashire.

Since of the ancient church at Dewsbury and of its recent repairs, of the modern episcopal and dissenting edifices in the parish, and of the free schools, and other educational establishments, descriptions will be given in our ecclesiastical and literary departments, we have little more to add concerning this town than that it is one of the most flourishing places in the whole West Riding of Yorkshire; it has rapidly expanded from a village to a considerable town, it contains many extensive establishments for the manufacture of blankets, woollen cloths, and carpets, its

* By Mr. Baines.

market is well frequented, its wealth is very considerable, it has an old established and excellent bank, in 1829 its inhabitants found themselves sufficiently opulent to light their town with gas, by the opening of the new road about thirteen years ago to Leeds, (an object which was accomplished by a few public spirited inhabitants,) the interest of the town has been very materially subserved, and there is very little doubt that in a few more years Dewsbury will rival, and perhaps exceed Wakefield, in the extent of its business and the number of its population.

We may here relieve the order of our narrative by relating an affecting circumstance which occurred in this town in the year 1826. On the night of November 18, the dye-house of Messrs. Halliley, Son and Brooke, was discovered to be on fire by the watchman, who immediately called to his assistance William Hanson, one of the company's overlookers, a faithful servant who had been in their employment thirty-three years. When Hanson saw the building in flames he received such a dreadful shock that he fell to the ground a corpse. Still more affecting and remarkable was the sequel of this occurrence. On the following day, while Mr. Wigglesworth, the coroner, was preparing to hold an inquest on the body, he was suddenly seized with a fit of apoplexy; he fell in the presence of the jury into the arms of Mr. Brooks and died in a few hours afterwards.

The inhabitants of Dewsbury, as might be supposed from their commercial enterprise and success, are extremely well informed and mentally active, the diffusion of education has opened to the operative population the means of acquiring information upon almost every topic of general, political, and scientific importance, the spirit of inquiry has been energetic and successful to a very remarkable degree, and there are persons to be found in Dewsbury, who for the enlargement of their views, the extent and variety of their knowledge, and the vigorous power of their expression, are at any rate equal to many of those who occupy higher stations and assume far more sounding pretensions.

Although the situation of Dewsbury is naturally highly fertile and salubrious—placed at the foot of a lofty elevation to the east, environed to the north and west with gently undulating hills, with the lovely valley of the Calder to the south, bounded with hanging woods, the town itself is one of the most disagreable in the district, dusty in summer and dirty in winter, most of the houses discoloured and disfigured by smoke, and laid out upon no

regular plan and with no rectilinear streets. There are, however, some fine residences in the neighbourhood, and if the manners of the inhabitants are not so refined as in some other places, they are at any rate recommended by sincerity and honesty. Some of the shops in Dewsbury are far more spacious than might have been expected from the dimensions and character of the town.

The magistrates who conduct the administration of justice hold their meetings at the George Hotel. The police is efficient and well arranged. The remaining townships in the parish of Dewsbury have little to distinguish them in this history, and that little belongs exclusively to the ecclesiastical department. OSSET is a large manufacturing village, situated on the hill overlooking the valley of the Calder, between Dewsbury and Wakefield, with a chapel of ease to the parish, and places of worship belonging to the Congregationalists and Wesleyan Methodists. To the ineffectual attempt of the inhabitants of this village to liberate themselves from the most injurious jurisdiction of the Wakefield Soke, we have already directed the attention of the reader. Of HARTSHEAD CUM CLIFTON we have had occasion to speak in the chapter upon Saxon antiquities, and in the next book it will occupy rather a prominent place, for although Kirklees Hall and Nunnery are not within the boundaries of our district, we shall transgress our limits for the purpose of presenting a short account of the latter. It only belongs to the present place to state, that after the dissolution, the site of the nunnery was given to the Ramsdens, that in the first year of the reign of Elizabeth it became the property of Robert Pilkington, and that seven years afterwards it was alienated to John Armitage, in whose family the place remains to the present day. The priory continued to be the residence of the owners of this estate until the time of James I. when they removed to the present magnificent mansion now occupied by Sir George Armitage, Bart. Of SOOTHILL,* EARL'S HEATON, and HANGING HEATON, nothing can be related which will interest the reader.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF DEWSBURY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Dewsbury,	4,566	5,059	6,380	8,272
Osset,	3,424	4,083	4,775	5,325
Soothill,	2,134	2,609	3,099	3,849
Hartshead cum Clifton,	1,628	1,728	2,007	2,408
Total,				19,854

* Soothill Hall we allude to under the head of Howley. See also p. 326.

ARDSLEY.

ARDSLEY is mentioned in the following terms in Doomsday Book. "In Erdeslawe Alric and Gerneter had five carucates of land and three oxgangs to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Suuen now has it of Ilbert himself. One plough there. Wood pasture one mile long and one broad. Value in King Edward's time thirty shillings, now ten shillings."*

Ardsley comprises two districts—that nearest the Roman road, containing the village so called, and the church, is East Ardsley—the other containing Lee Fair, Westerton, Tingley, Topcliffe, &c. is West Ardsley. Each of these places has a parish church, to which we shall refer in the next part of this work. The Manor House at Ardsley, now tenanted by a labouring man, was once the seat of the Copleys, and possessed the usual appendages which belonged to a family of consequence. Under the pinnacle of the gable end is the date 1622. The ancient Vicarage House is near the church, and is one of the most interesting specimens of the style of architecture prevailing in the age of Cromwell. Ardsley has been celebrated as the birth place of one of the most extraordinary and eccentric individuals who ever lived, and some account of whom is given in the note below.†

* Bawdwen's Doomsday Book, p. 143.

† "James Nayler, the subject of this memoir, was born, undubitably, at Ardsley, where he lived twenty-two years and upwards, until he married "*according to the world*," as he expressed himself. He dwelt afterwards in the parish of Wakefield, till some time in the Civil War, when he served his country under various offices on the side of the Parliament, and rose to be Quarter-Master under General Lambert. In this service he continued till disabled by illness in Scotland, when he returned home. About this time he was member of an Independent Church at Horbury, of which Christopher Marshall was Pastor. By this Society being cast out, on charges of blasphemy and incontinence with a Mrs. Roper, (a married woman) he turned Quaker. Travelling soon after to visit his quaking brethren in Cornwall, he was arrested by one Major Saunders, and committed as a vagrant; but being released by an order from the Council of State, he bent his

The following communication from Mr. Scatcherd relative to this place will be read with considerable interest. We present it

course through Chewstoke, in Somersetshire, to Bristol, and here those extraordinary scenes were contemplated which I have to relate.

By way of preliminary, however, I ought to observe that, notwithstanding the irregularities in Nayler's life, there were many things in the man, which, with low and ignorant people, exceedingly favoured his pretensions to the Messiahship. He appeared, both as to form and feature, the perfect likeness of Jesus Christ, according to the best descriptions. His face was of the oval shape—his forehead broad—his hair auburn and long, and parted on the brow—his beard flowing—his eyes beaming with a benignant lustre—his nose of the Grecian or Circassian order—his figure erect and majestic—his aspect sedate—his speech sententious, deliberate, and grave, and his manner authoritative. In addition also, to these advantages, his studies had been devoted to Scripture history, and by some means he had caught up the Gnostic heresy and the doctrine of Œons; so that, like many of the "fanatical" folk, (the Gnostics of our day) he could bewilder and confound others, without being detected or abashed himself.

The usual posture of Nayler was sitting in a chair, while his company of men and women knelt before him. These, it appears, were very numerous and constant for whole days together. At the commencement of the service a female stepped forth and sung,—

"This is the joyful day,
"Behold! the king of righteousness is come!"

Another taking him by the hand exclaimed—

"Rise up, my love—my dove—and come away,
"Why sittest thou among the pots?"

Then, putting his hand upon her mouth, she sunk upon the ground before him, the auditory vociferating—

"Holy, holy, holy, to the Almighty!"

The procession of this lunatic and impostor, (for lunatic he evidently was) especially in passing through Chepstow, was extensive and singular. Mounted on the back of a horse or mule;—one Woodcock, preceded him bareheaded, and on foot;—a female, on each side of Nayler, held his bridle;—many spread garments in his way, while the ladies sung—"Hosannah to the Son of David—blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord—Hosannah in the highest!"

I know not what sort of a prophet James Nayler was, but I am sure he could not be a worse one than Richard Brothers, Johanna Southcott, and all other such pretenders as have since arisen;—he wrought, however, according to the allegation of Dorcas Erbury, a capital miracle upon her; for he raised her from the dead, in Exeter Gaol, after she had departed this life full two days; and that is more than all the Towsers, Mousers, and Carousers of Johanna, or the Prophetess herself ever did, as they would perhaps acknowledge. The House of Commons, in 1656, was so sceptical—so irreligious—and so insensible to the merits of this Quaker Christ, that on Wednesday, the 17th of December, in that year, after a patient investigation of ten days, it was resolved,—"That James Nayler be set on the pillory, with his head in the pillory, in the Palace-yard, Westminster, during the space of two

in this place, although it seems to belong rather to our literary department, because it contains a variety of topographical particulars." When, in my history of Morley, &c., I gave a particular account of James Naylor, of Ardsley, I was little aware that this place was once famous for the residence of a mathematician of chief celebrity in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. By the obliging kindness of Mr. Hunter, the historian of Hallamshire and South Yorkshire, through the medium of a friend, I am referred to the following most acceptable information.

"John Field appeared at the Visitation in 1585, when he "gave an account of eight sons by Jane, daughter of John Amyas, "of Kent. He also certified his arms, which were a chevron "between three garbs of silver on a sable field, and his coat, which "was a dexter hand proper, habited gules, turned up argent "holding A GOLDEN ORRERY. This crest had been granted to "him by Harvey Clarencieux, by patent, dated 4th of Sept. 1558. "The crest was a remarkable one, and was evidently granted to "him for some special reason. The occasion of it is shewn by the "first clause in his will, dated Dec. 28, 1586, and proved at York "3d of May, 1587:—

"'I, John Field, of Ardslow, farmer, sometymes studente in "'*the mathymaticalls sciences*,' &c.

hours, on Thursday following, and should be whipped by the hangman through the streets from Westminster to the Old Exchange, London, and there likewise be set with his head in the pillory for the space of two hours, between the hours of eleven and one on Saturday after, in each place, wearing a paper containing an inscription of his crimes; and that, at the Old Exchange, his tongue be bored through with a hot iron, and that he be there stigmatized also with the letter 'B.' in the forehead; and he be afterwards sent to Bristol, and be conveyed into and through the said city on horseback bare ridged, with his face backward, and there also publickly whipped the next market day after he comes thither; and that, from thence, he be committed to prison, to Bridewell, London, and there restrained from the society of all people, and there to labour hard till he be released by Parliament, and during that time to be debarred the use of pen, ink, and paper, and have no relief but what he earned by his daily labour.

This sentence was, for the most part, executed upon Nayler, when some of his followers were so infatuated as to lick his wounds—kiss his feet, and lean upon his bosom. He was, however, allowed pen, ink, and paper, and wrote several books during his confinement.

When lodged in Bridewell, in order to carry on his impostures, he fasted three days, but flesh and blood being able to hold out no longer, he fell to work to earn himself some food. Upon the next change of Government he obtained his liberty, but died soon after without any signs of repentance."

"Turning to Wood's Athenæ," says Mr. Hunter, "I found "that there was a John Field who published an Ephemeris for "the year 1557, to which a learned epistle is prefixed, written by "Dr. John Dee;—and again, Ephemerides for the three following "years, with astronomical tables calculated for the meridian of "London, with tables of the fixed stars, &c.—Wood says that he "was much in renown for his learning in the reign of Queen "Mary and beginning of Queen Elizabeth. With all his dili- "gence, Wood was unable to collect any particulars of his later "history, but it is manifest that he retired into Yorkshire, and "lived at Ardsley, continuing, as may be inferred from the clause "in his will, his mathematical studies to the last. As HIS HIS- "TORY IS PART OF THE LITERARY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF "YORK, I shall add from his will, that he desires to be buried in "the church *porch* of Ardsley. He speaks of being bound to "John Francklyne, of Little Chart, in Kent, Esq., in two or "three hundred pounds; that he would leave £100 to his wife, "in fulfilment of which he gives her his interest in the free- "hold where he dwells, *and the* WATER *corn mill* BELONGING, "*held on lease.* He gives all his *plate and jewels* to his younger "sons James and Martin Field. To 500 poor folks a penny dole, "and a dinner to all his poor neighbours. 'And to my gossoppe "'Will. Sherely and Rowland of the NEW *Parke* my hunting "'horn, with rest pertaining to it, with an English book, at my "'wife's discretion.' He then bequeaths to his children, makes his "wife executrix, and names for supervisors Robert Greenwood, "gentleman; Robert Allott, of Bentley, tanner; and Mr. Wil- "liam Dynely, of Swillington. There is an old mansion near the "church built by the Saviles, and which is probably the successor "of that in which Field the mathematician lived."

Before I proceed, I wish to offer a few observations upon this curious and valuable note of Mr. Hunter, hoping there is no presumption in my doing so, from being well acquainted with local circumstances, and having viewed the country hereabouts with a true "Huttonian," that is to say antiquarian, eye.

Now many mistakes, as I am convinced, have arisen from persons being in former times said to live "*at Ardsley,*" who probably lived a mile and a half or two miles from the *village* of EAST Ardsley; and this I will prove by two instances.—In the first place, it is said that James Naylor, the prophet, was born and lived at Ardsley; but if by this be meant the village of East

Ardsley, I must demur to the assertion, for the great-grand-daughter of the prophet told a very honest and respectable acquaintance of mine, and a true antiquary (Mark Hepworth), that *when "the word of the Lord" first came* to her ancestor, "he was ploughing in a field," which she described east of Hague Hall spring, so that the prophet probably lived at, or near, Haigh-moor-side. In the next place, Lord Fairfax mentions a Mr. Headcot (Hesketh), "a minister, *of Ardsley*," and I know Mr. Hesketh, a minister, lived near Lee Fair upper green; but both these places are in Ardsley WEST.

To return to the residence of Field the astronomer, and his "WATER corn mill *thereunto belonging*," I cannot believe, with Mr. Hunter, that it was upon *the top* of a *dry hill* near East Ardsley church, where is no vestige of such works, or indeed any where in East Ardsley; but I can point out to him the very ancient WATER *corn* mills in "Ardsley" (West), just below Woodchurch; and if it be objected that an astronomer would not fix his observatory here, I will reply that *Hague-moor-side* would suit him, where *I know for a fact that James Field his* GRANDSON *lived*, in a house still remaining, and occupied by families called Appleby and Mitchell.

But I have another reason for believing that our great mathematician, astronomer, and, no doubt, astrologer, lived either at the Mills, or on Haigh-moor-side, and that is this:—He leaves to his friends "William Sherely and Rowland, of the NEW Park, "his hunting horn." Of course we may conclude that he lived in the vicinity of the *New* Park and of the *Old* one. I will shew that he did so, and that the village of East Ardsley is remote from both.

In the latter part of Elizabeth's reign, the fine estate of the Soothills, at Howley, having come by marriage into that of Savile, the famous Sir John, or his father Sir Robert, began to build the splendid mansion at this place, and he fenced it round with a park wall about the same period. This, of course, when the mathematician died, would be called the NEW Park, either in contradistinction to the park of the Murfields and Southwells, if they had one, or more likely, to the ancient park of Haigh Hall, a large old mansion destroyed early in the last century. This park extended nearly from Woodchurch along the bottom of Haigh-moor down to Low Laiths, where still are very large and ancient barns, probably "the grange." A lane, still called Park

Lane, is partly visible, and the site of the lodge on the hill side still bears the appellation of Red Lodge.

From these concurrent circumstances I certainly believe that our mathematician was the miller at the mills of Ardsley (West), which he probably rented of those who came in for the plunder and spoils of Wodekirke Monastery, or its superior at Nostel. These mills are of very high autiquity. They probably were *first* established in the reign of Edward the Second, if not before it.

As it now appears from the household books, or privy purse expenses of our ancient kings, queens, nobility, &c., that they scarce did *one important act* without first consulting their astrologers—as John Field and Dr. John Dee pursued the same profession with equal reputation at court, one as the great astrologer of Elizabeth, and the other of Mary—as the jewels left to Field's wife, if not the plate, had probably been given to OUR "Sidrophel" by the former, and as "his history is" a *most interesting* "portion of the literary history of the county of York," I may, perhaps, be excused for a little curiosity about his residence, and a wish to ascertain whether he is laid in the porch of East Ardsley church, or, as I believe, in that of Sancta Maria, at Woodchurch.*

* "Two younger sons of John Field were called Matthew and William. In "Michaelmas Term, 11th Jac. 1, the manor of Thurnscoe was passed by fine from "one of the Cliftons to this Matthew Field, gentleman, whose son, James Field, "inherited it, and resided there. He had several children baptized at Thurnscoe "between 1628 and 1639."

Concerning this James Field, we have the following anecdote in the Strafford correspondence :—

My Lord Savile hath had a high and mighty petition put up against him to the Lords by one Field, a very honest man, as I hear, and one of your lordship's country—one much trusted by the old* Savile. This young lord is charged by him to have, by the persuasion of one Shaw and Ollerton, gotten him to his house, whither, when he came, he carried him alone into his study, shuts the door, putting the key into his pocket, goes to a drawer, whence he takes out a dagger, which he puts to his breast, and swears by a most fearful oath, that if he did not presently sign and seal that writing lying before him, he would kill him in the place. He, thus terrified, sealed it. My Lord Savile then took a book, which he thinks was a bible—made him lay his hand thereon, and swear never to reveal it. This Field, having afterwards spoken of it, it comes to my Lord Savile's ears, who instantly puts a bill into the Star Chamber, where, being in a straight, he had no way but to implore the favour of the Lords, who have bid him put in a cross bill against the Lord Savile. I wish him good luck, because Sir Gervase Clifton commends him for an honest man; yet, being face to face before the Council, they affirmed things point blank one to the other.

In another letter, from Mr. Garrard to Lord Strafford, in 1637, he writes thus :—

* The famous Lord (John) Savile, buried at Batley, in 1630.

The "History of Morley" has exhausted the annals of Ardsley—our limits being contracted we must pass over many

"My Lord Savile's cause is now in agitation about the man whom he forced to "release some writings.—It has taken up four days already, and is not yet come to "sentence."

The business was not finished in the spring of next year; for Lord Wentworth, on the 10th of April, 1638, writes thus to Archbishop Laud:—

"What is done by the Court of Star Chamber in that business of the Lord "Savile and Field I hear not; and be the swearing what can be, I know whether "of them I believe hath sworn the truth." *

"It appears, says Mr. Hunter, by an unpublished letter in the Strafford Cor- "respondence, that Field, with one Daniel Foxcroft,† acted for the sister of Lord "Savile as executrix to her father's will in 1631. There had been earlier transac- "tions between the Fields and Saviles of Howley; William Field of Carhead, "and Matthew Field of Ardsley, having bought one fourth of the manor of Idle of "Sir John Savile in 1615."

The whole of this narration I consider curious and valuable, not only because it makes us acquainted with a celebrated Yorkshire mathematician and astronomer of the Tudor times, but as it gives us some further insight as to the character of a nobleman of great notoriety in the early part of the 17th century; I ought to add, if we believe the allegation of Field, or rely upon the assertions of Hollis, ‡ who styles him "a known, infamous impostor." Considering, however, that his lord- ship might, with equal appearance of truth, have retorted upon Hollis the appella- tion of "known infamous" apostate, calumniator, and pensioner, there is but a "measuring cast" between the testimony of Field and of Savile.

I know little more about the issue of the Star Chamber suit than did Mr. Hunter, only this I know, by tradition, that it ruined Field, who ended his days in great poverty ON HAIGH-MOOR-SIDE. The Civil War which ensued in this country—the troubles of the times—and especially the consequent destruction of the court of Star Chamber, prevented, in all probability, this affair being brought to a regular issue. There was a John Savile living at Haigh Hall, near the residence of Field, in 1615, but whether Field was (as I suspect) his steward, (for there is a tradition of Field inviting a Savile, as he came out of Woodchurch one Sunday, to dine with him on "cock and bacon");—whether he was one of the noble family of Savile, or which of that name visited Field in his adversity, poverty, and old age, I cannot say; only that I am well assured that some one of that name assuredly did visit him.

I have carefully looked into Wood's Athenæ, at the Leeds old library, for further information of the astronomer; but alas! I can add nothing more to the acceptable information which the historian of South Yorkshire has supplied.

* This corroborates my narrative in the History of Morley, p. 34 and 37, relating to the bitter enmity between Strafford and Savile.

† The Foxcrofts, I believe, lived at Purlewell Hall, near Batley, and this man was probably a son of John Foxcroft, who, along with Sir John Savile and others, was appointed a trustee of Batley school by the Rev. Wm. Lee, by will dated 24th Sept. 1612. ‡ See p. 38 of his memoirs. N. S.

particulars which might be narrated, but which would by no means particularly interest the reader. We pass by Tingley, to whose ancient Danish fortification we have already alluded, and by Topcliffe, where there was formerly a seat of Sir John Topcliffe, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Master of the Mint, and one of the great officers of the royal household in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII.

An instance of undaunted and successful courage occurred in Ardsley in the year 1824, so truly extraordinary that it deserves distinct record even in this abridgment. Mr. Boyle, a gentleman upwards of eighty years of age, and who had been reduced to extreme debility by a long illness, lived with his wife and a servant girl in a lonely house and in a bad neighbourhood. Since it was known that he had lately received his rents, six or seven ruffians determined to rob the house, and from the desperate depravity of their characters, there is little doubt that they would not have hesitated to add murder to robbery. About one o'clock in the morning of the 25th of July, they arrived at Mr. Boyle's residence, and by the noise they made in entering, awoke Elizabeth Balmforth, the servant girl, who with wonderful presence of mind first secured a door which opened upon the landing of the better rooms, and then alarmed her master. The courageous old man armed himself with a carbine which had not been fired for two years, and a double barrelled pistol which he put into his pocket, and followed by his wife, who carried a drawn sword, proceeded down the principal staircase to attack the robbers. Perceiving a man by the kitchen door he fired his carbine, which mortally wounded the robber, and the remaining miscreants, with the cowardice which always accompanies guilt, immediately took to their heels. The wounded robber crawled from the house, and was perceived at day break in the agonies of death. He proved to be an inhabitant of Morley, and maintained to the last his fidelity to his comrades, making no confession whatever. Two of them were, however, soon afterwards apprehended and sentenced to die—they were not executed, but were transported for life.

POPULATION OF EAST AND WEST ARDSLEY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
East Ardsley, ...	686	812	832	853
West Ardsley, ...	1032	1332	1515	1450

WOODCHURCH.

THE name of Woodchurch sufficiently testifies both to its character and antiquity. As Whitkirk was so called from a stone church having taken the place of a timber one, turned black from age and exposure to the weather, so Woodchurch designates a very ancient fabric, composed of the usual materials of which even sacred buildings were constructed in remote ages, and devoted at a very early period to the worship of God. Woodchurch was noticed by Leland, who says of it, "At Woodchurch in Morley Wapentake, near Dewsbury, was a cell of black canons from Nostel, valued at seventeen pounds per annum."* Although Woodchurch was however but a cell to the priory, the remaining foundations prove it to have been of considerable comparative extent. We have no doubt but that the church was conventual as well as parochial, that it was supposed to be possessed of considerable sanctity, and that it enjoyed a very extensive religious renown. For all miscellaneous particulars relative to this place, we refer our readers to the History of Morley. We shall only refer here to one circumstance connected with the history before we insert a valuable communication relative to the place. At Soothill, near this place, was an ancient family of the same name. One of this family, who must have been a man of a brutal and ferocious character, having worked himself up into a phrenzy of rage against a boy, threw him into a furnace or burning chaldron. In order, after this atrocious murder, to propitiate both the civil and ecclesiastical power, as well as to alleviate the

* Of this priory at Nostel, Leland says, "Where the Paroch Church of St. Oswalds is now newly builded, there was in Henry the 1st's time, a House and Church of poor Heremites (Hermits) as in a woddy country, until one Radulphus Adlaver, Confessor to Henry 1st, began the new Monastery of Chanons, and was first Prior of it himself. The building of this house is exceeding great and fair, and hath the goodliest Fountain of Conduit water in that quarter of England. Secundus, Prior a postremo (the last Prior but two) fetched this Conduit a mile and above off, and builded an exceeding fair kitchen also in the Monastery."

torments of an accusing conscience, he gave to the religious house at Woodchurch some lands, which long afterwards bore the name of Furnace or Frying Pan Fields. This circumstance affords a striking picture of the superstition and lawlessness of the times, when atrocious murder could be commuted for pecuniary forfeiture, and conscience could be pacified for enormous crime by a gift to a religious establishment.

The following communication from Mr. Scatcherd, relative to this most interesting place, we shall present to our readers in his own words, and certain we are that the description will supersede the necessity of any farther observations of our own.

Mr. Scatcherd states, "In the hope that it might save from destruction the interesting chancel and stalls of the black canons, I addressed to the public—especially Lord Cardigan last year, taking care to send him an "INTELLIGENCER" *—I have also laboured to accomplish my object by means of that very able and elegant architect Mr. Chantrell. But alas! alas! the sentence is past. The tomb of Sir John Topcliffe, Chief Justice of Ireland, Master of the Mint, &c. in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. if not of Richard III. is destined to lay open to the canopy of the heavens, the beautiful stalls of the black canons, with their interesting carvings, with "I. H. S." (the charm against demoniac agency,) the beautiful walls with their roses, carnations, anemonies, grapes, peaches, &c. and gildings—the beautiful remains of painted glass, where shields, crests, oak leaves and acorns—birds, and a saint under martyrdom, are still visible; all—all are doomed to destruction by the Goths and Vandals of the 19th century. Well! property comes into the hands of strange men—of men equally devoid of historical knowledge, of reflection, of taste, of concern for the opinions of their contemporaries, or the gratification of posterity, and the country is thus deprived of its most curious and interesting relics. The chancel of Woodchurch gone, (as it soon will be,) the place will be as little worth visiting as the black hole of Calcutta.

"I have, however, taken the precaution to furnish myself with drawings of all the above objects; as also of the ancient porch with 'Beatæ Mariæ' upon it, now pulled down. Of these, thank heaven! the Vandals could not deprive me. Being extremely anxious that what I have been at the pains of collecting, and omitted in my history of Morley, &c. should be put in

* For this letter see the addenda to the Book.

print, I must beg the favour of you to co-operate with me, as, otherwise, in all probability, it will be lost for ever.

"In the east window of Woodkirk chancel there are five shields of arms in broken painted glass, but so made up from the broken glass of other windows, that little can be gathered from them. There are two birds facing each other, apparently intended for bustards or large hawks; but, as I believe, really intended for eagles. The arms of Soothill, of Soothill Hall, were an Eagle DISPLAYED, argent,* and these birds have been argent; but they are not displayed, which causes me to doubt whether Sir John Topcliffe may not have had these birds (if bustards) for his supporters.

"In one of these shields, on a piece of glass, which seems once to have been silvered, is a saint upon a wheel cross, in the agonies of martyrdom. A hand appears over his head, which I imagine has belonged to another figure, perhaps the Roman Lictor. You will remember my having shewed you my drawing of this and other things.

"In the chancel of Woodchurch, upon a marble slab, is the following inscription:—

THOS. AYRE DE HOWLEY.
Conditur hoc tumulo nulla pietate secundus
Simplicitatis amans, justitiæque tenax,
Fortis evangeliæ, pietatis vixit amicus,
Sic et supremum clauserit ille diem.
Amissum juste deflet vicinia tota,
Divitibus fugium, pauperibusque patrem.
Obiit 21 die Junii Anno 1706, æt 66.

"The tower of Woodchurch, which has evidently been rebuilt since the days of the black canons, displays a portion of the zig zag or chevron arch moulding. Its bells, according to tradition, once belonged to Ardsley, but this I doubt for reasons mentioned in my history.

"I now come to the most amusing part of my narrative. King Henry I. granted the canons of Nostel the privilege of holding a fair there at the feast of St. Oswald, (August 5th,) the two preceding and two following days. In this reign Woodkirke, as a cell of black canons, was also founded; and it is probable, if not certain, that there was a similar grant of a fair to this convent. This fair, however, which, tradition says, was once held for three

* Vide MSS. for the West Riding in the Leeds Old Library.

weeks, was about the time of St. Bartholomew, September 5th. And hereby hangs a tale which may interest a few of your readers almost as much as it has amused me.

"The fair of St. Oswald, at Nostel, appears to have been suppressed by John de Insula (De Lisle) on account of the riots and disorders with which it was attended. What scenes were sometimes witnessed at the fair belonging to the canons of Wodekirk may be conceived from the following extract from the court rolls of the manor of Wakefield.

'Alicia de Scardeby op. se versus Johannem de Heton, et 'quer: quod die Lunæ, in FESTO NATIVITATIS BEATÆ MARIÆ, 'anno regis Edwardi nunc nono, idem Johannes insultum fecit 'in ipsam. Aliciam et cepit, ipsam per capillos capitis sui in 'nundinis de Wodekirk, et ipsam extraxit per capillos prædictos, 'a parte boreali ex parte nunc prædiet: quousque fossatum: 'Australi ex parte earundem. Et quia non potuit capillos pre-'dictos eradicare in hac forma, emarcuit ped, suo in facie ejusdem. 'Aliciæ causa eradicandi capillos predictos: et nihil hominus 'cepit quendam baculum, et ipsam verberavit ultra humeros, 'lumbos, et corpus, et alia enormia ei intulit, ad dampna sua C 'sol—et inde perduxit sectam.'

"There can be no doubt, I think, that this John de Heton was the head of that great family of which, in my history, I have made mention, as living at Old Howley Hall, near Woodkirk; for a John de Heton was living about that period, (9th Edward II.) and surely in that very house. Amabil, the wife of John, was also concerned in this outrage, against whom also, as also against one John Graffard, complaint was made in the same court. One John of Newcastle also complained of this John de Heton, for an assault and battery, at the same fair, to his damage of 100 shillings; and one William (the) Carter complained that the said John had come into his stall at the fair, and had overturned it, by which he lost 20 gallons of beer worth 2s. 4d.—a cask value 12d. and a sack worth 8d. The covering of his stall was also torn, damage 12d. and other injuries—total loss 40 shillings—a great sum of money in those days.

"The first curiosity to be noticed upon the face of this account is the distance from whence people came to this very celebrated fair, to lay in their stock of necessaries for the winter. Here we have two travellers, Alice (of) Scardeby* and John (of) Newcas-

* I wonder where Scardeby is? The termination "by," or "bye," shews it had been a *lone* place.

tle—the one, doubtless, a good housewife, the other a dealer in cattle and wares. We have also William (the) Carter bringing refreshments (of various kinds no doubt.) And here comes John de Heton, like most of the great men of his day, a complete outlaw; and aided probably his man Graffard, and wife Amebil, and elevated perhaps by the Carter's good liquor, he kicks up a row—overturns his stall—taps his casks—knocks down the Newcastle man, and coveting the fine locks of Alice of Scardeby, if not her person, he attemps to steal the growing crop even upon the consecrated grounds of the black canons!!! What a picture of the times! And these were the days of chivalry forsooth!

"Let not any of your readers be startled at my supposing that Sir Bryan Thornhill, Sir John Elland, Adam de Oxenhope, or Adam of Batley, and such other personages, were at Wodekirk fair at this period, both on business and for pleasure. In Madox's History of the Exchequer it is recorded (p. 266) that twenty pounds was allowed in the 18th of Henry II. to Aylward the king's chamberlain, to buy a robe for the young king, at Winchester fair. And this robe, bought at Giles' hill fair, was actually bought for his coronation. Some fairs in these times were so famous that merchants from France, Spain, Florence, the Low Countries, and even Germany, came with their wares and merchandise to sell; and every family of consequence, as well as the religious houses, laid in their stock of necessaries for a whole year. In these times also, the priest and clerk stood ready, all day, during the time of the fairs, to marry, in their churches, all such as, during the mirth of the fair, were desirous to be married. The household books of the Earl of Northumberland, in Henry VII's reign, and Lord* North's in that of Elizabeth, among various other documents abundantly shew the importance of these fairs, and that the nobility themselves went a marketing. People therefore are not to judge of what Wodekirk fair was from what Lee, OR LEIGH, fair now is. In fact it was considerable in my juvenile days compared with what it has been for many years, and musicians, actors, jugglers, &c. such as, even in Norman times, were brought to fairs, to attract company, still continued to exhibit.

"But I have something still more remarkable to tell you, and your readers, about Wodekirk, or Leigh fair, which is, that, on St. Bartholomew's day, the scholars from the grammar schools of

* "For a Garter to wear my *Ring*," (Seel) "by at Market xvj."

Leeds, Wakefield, &c. were brought to this place for disputation, or to ascertain their proficiency in classical learning, annually, down to the early part of last century. When first I gained this information—coming, as it did, from very creditable, but uneducated, old men, I doubted the truth of their forefather's tradition, but finding that the fair once lasted about three weeks, and that the last day was on *St. Bartholomew*—the patron or tutelary saint of *Scholars*—reflecting too on the accounts of Stowe, Lilly the astrologer, and others, I am now as sure that these disputations were at Lee fair as if I had seen them—for how could old labourers and mechanics know any thing about St. Bartholomew? or the usages on his day?

"One old man, who died about 1780, and from whom my informant had his account, related, that his father, when a boy, was present during a disputation, and had well nigh been knocked on the head by a beadle—for, happening to ask one of the boys who stood up, the Latin words for certain articles which I dare not myself put, even in that language, in this place; the gentleman in gold laced robe and cocked hat, applied his truncheon so forcibly to the 'pericranium' of the catechiser as made him remember his impudence and indecency all his life afterwards. My respectable neighbour and tenant, Mr. Mark Hepworth, an enthusiast in antiquities, like myself, from his childhood, had this last narration from two very aged persons, Joseph Bold and Richard Moreby, men of good character, who died above thirty years ago, as appears by the Woodchurch register.

"But I must now take leave of Woodchurch. Considering how little was known of it before I wrote, even by Dr. Whitaker, tacking the present communication to the contents of my volume, I flatter myself that I have done tolerable justice to the place. I sigh for the ravages which time and the Vandals have committed; but most of all on account of the spacious, curious, and beautiful chancel. Ruminating on this, in connection with times past, and viewing its present neglected, dilapidated state, a feeling of melancholy, as well as indignation, steals upon me. In the beautiful language of the Psalmist I would exclaim 'We think upon her 'stones and it pitieth us to see her in the dust.'"

THE PARISH OF BATLEY.

We now enter upon the history of a parish in every sense one of the most interesting, and formerly one of the most important in the district, replete with impressive facts and important characters belonging to times long since past away. There is no doubt that the common etymology of the name is correct, and that it signifies the field of Batt, or Batta, a sirname, says Whitaker, which remained long after the extinction of the Saxon language. Batley is thus mentioned in Doomsday Book. "In Bateleia, Dunstan and Stainulf and Westre had five carucates of land to be taxed, where there are two ploughs. Ilbert has it. There are six villanes and four bordars, with five carucates. There are a presbyter, a church, and two acres of meadow. Wood pasture two quarentens long and three broad. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings; now the same." The population then of Batley at this period may be estimated at one hundred souls, and it would seem that the land was comparatively well cultivated. How the manor was granted out by the Lacies does not appear, but at an early period it became part of the possessions of a family called simultaneously according to the place of their residence, de Bateley, de Copley, and de Oxenhope. At the beginning of the fourth century, that is in the reign of Edward II. Adam de Copley was returned lord of Batley, and his family remained in possession of it at any rate until the reign of Henry VIII. We shall return to the subject again in our account of Howley Hall. Dr. Whitaker says, "In the coucher book of Nostel, is a perambulation of this parish, from which I can give only the following extracts, not having had an opportunity of consulting the original. 1st, the village of Courlewell (Churwell) with its territory, is situated within the limits of the church of Batley. 2ndly, the boundary of the parishes of Leeds and Batley is described to be "a certain river descending between the wood of Farneley and the wood of Gilders (I suppose Gilder-

some) as far as to the hospital of Beston. Item another river on the south, descending between the wood of Middleton and the essart of Morley, as far as to the aforesaid hospital of Beston, is also the boundary between the aforesaid parishes." Our author adds, "From the account given of this hospital, it must have stood at the bottom of the hill, and on the south side of the brook dividing Churwell and Beeston.

Mr. Scatcherd has favoured the author with the following communication relative to Batley, which we insert at length:—"There is a tradition at Batley respecting the murder of an old clerk of the church, who kept a public house where still there is one, opposite the school.

"I have taken some pains to get information upon the subject; but with difficulty, and only by accident, could ascertain even the period when the catastrophe occurred. The following are my scanty gleanings.

"This old man had married to his second wife, a young woman, who proved unfaithful to him, and formed a connection with another person. Wishing to get rid of him, she conspired with her paramour, and an apprentice boy, to dispatch him. In this boy the old clerk reposed the chief confidence for his safety, suspecting the danger at hand; but, while ascending some stairs, and in the very act of saying "if thou be there Jack, I'm safe," the young villain struck him on the head and he was finally murdered. For two days and nights his body was concealed in a heap of manure, and being then conveyed to Carlinghow Chaise, or spring wood, it was thrown into a pit, which to this day, is called "the Clerk's pit." After much inquiry, and search in the neighbourhood to no purpose, it is said the then vicar ("Dean") was consulted, who used this curious phrase:—"If an angel appear the dead will arise," intimating that if a golden reward were offered for the discovery of the body, it would be brought forth, (a piece of money, called "an angel," being still current.) But it seems he was wrong, for blood hounds were eventually employed, and the absurd tale is, that they hunted the corpse to the very mouth of the pit, whence it was taken. The name of the old man is said to have been Haley or Healey. What was done to the criminals remains unknown, but they were certainly apprehended.

"By a tombstone on the south side of the church, it appears that one Thomas Haley, carpenter, died April 1, 1682, æt 47, and "Rebecka" his wife, Oct. 20, in 1726, æt 84. Now this woman

would be about 26, in 1683, when her husband was 47; and their difference of 20 years creates a suspicion that this carpenter was the identical clerk, but I am unable to add more.

"Vicar Dean, as appears from Whitaker, was presented to the living of Batley, sometime in the reign of Charles II. and probably upon the restoration or passing of the "Uniformity" Act. It does not appear when he died or resigned.

"One of the vicars of Batley, called "Hollyoak," was taken off in a singular way. He was, during his journey to Batley from the south, put into a bed where a boy had slept who had the small pox. By this means the vicar caught the infection, and died of the complaint soon after his arrival.

"On the Thursday in Whitsun week, 1786, there was a dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, which, in its course over Batley, struck the south east pinnacle of the church tower, about five o'clock in the evening. The inconceivable power of the electric fluid has seldom been more conspicuous than it was in this instance. The finial of the pinnacle rested upon four stones, each weighing (upon an average,) 112 pounds. These were driven away, in different directions, so suddenly, and so wonderfully, that the finial, as if unaffected by the shock, never lost its perpendicular, but was actually found resting upon the course of stone below, as though it had been set thereon by the original builders. The stricken four stones were cast as follows, viz.: one upon an old barn below the vicarage, one upon the stone steps, on the south side of the burial ground, (next upper Batley,) which it broke; one into another part of the ground; and one fell upon the church. This account I have from several very creditable persons still living, and it induces me to mention a similar wonder, equally well authenticated, which occurred at Harewood, a few years ago.

"A very worthy person, one George Fawcett, a hatter, at Birstal, whom I well knew, especially as an excellent singer, happened to call at Harewood for payment of a bill when a thunder storm came on. A number of sovereigns were laid, with notes, upon a table, when an awful flash alarmed the reckoners, and caused them to retire. Upon reapproaching the money it was discovered that a guinea or a sovereign was gone, and it occasioned some explanation, Fawcett denying that he had touched the cash, and his customer averring that he had counted it out and left it. The former, I believe, with his usual generosity, good temper,

and forbearance, gave up the point, and the other had no qualm of conscience; for, upon reaching down the candle snuffers, the same evening, which hung upon a nail, the good housewife discovered them to be almost as finely gilded, as though a working goldsmith had done the job. These snuffers, so gilded, are, I understand, still shown at Harewood. An equal astonishment was once excited at Horsforth, but I forget the particulars.

"GIPSIES.—I must not forget to relate that on returning from Batley, with Mr. Geo. Crowther, on the 20th of December, 1831, I saw, for the first time in my life, a gipsey hut, at night, with its fire blazing on the right of the road, (as we returned,) and about 40 or 50 yards below the "Needless" Inn, or Cardigan's arms, just by the rivulet which crosses the road on this hill side. The family consisted of husband, wife, and young daughter, he a tinker and grinder, was exercising his evening vocation as a fiddler, at the "Needless" Inn, accompanied by the girl, while his wife, a pretty black eyed woman, (but lost in dirt,) was sitting solitary, guarding the tent; with her sparklers (over shadowed with fine black eyelashes) fixed in listless indolence upon the fire. She told me that she was a native of Somersetshire, but that her husband's settlement was at Beverley, in this county; and on my asking if she was not afraid of a storm, and still colder weather, she replied, that a good snow was what she had long wanted, as it would be both more wholesome and pleasant after a good downfall. These gipsies, I have ever observed, are as excellent judges of situation, as were the monastics of the middle ages. If there be one, nice sheltered, well watered, dry, and green spot, in a long lane, or by a road side, they are sure to find it.

"During the last summer, (1832) we had four or five more camps of gipsies along the top of Morley Spring, in Scotsman-lane, and so many people went to see them from all the surrounding villages, that the towns officers were obliged to send them away at a short notice.

"Another description of travellers, formerly very numerous in these parts, deserve notice here, viz.: the "Bell Horses." I have a faint recollection of them passing through Morley twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays as I am told. They were called pack horses from carrying large packs of cloth, &c. on their backs. They stand connected with our national history, and in page 294, of my history, a brief allusion to them is made. These bell horses and their drivers were the chief conveyances during the

middle ages, and down to the times of the great civil war. By means of them, not only various goods, but letters, and even young Oxford and Cambridge students, were passed from various parts of the kingdom. We have an interesting account of them in the 25th volume of the Archæologia, just come out. "Imedyatly after that comunycacion (says the writer,) we mete one Stephen Amore, a man of Nottyngh'en comyn from Stamford, dryving horses lodden with cloth before him," &c. Stephen it appears had been at Bury, (probably Bury in Lancashire, or Bury (St. Edmonds,) in Suffolk,) and like all his brother carriers, was a famous newsmonger and politician.

"When I saw the bell horses at Morley, passing on to Dewsbury and Thornhill, the first horse only wore a bell. The roads were then narrow and rugged, with deep ruts, and the causeways, generally, were single and uneven. The bell horses always kept this foot path, and forced therefrom travellers of every description, so that on dark nights, and especially in the winter time, the bell of the proud leader was a most useful appendage. These roadsters ceased to travel, sometime, as I fancy, about 1794, but I cannot ascertain the precise date.

"The family of the "Hornblowers" was pretty numerous in these old days, and one of the number, at Morley, was the village postman. It is a usage as old as Shakspeare's days, but quite discontinued here now. In the Merchant of Venice, act v. scene 1, Lancelot says, "Tell him there's a horn come from my master full of good news."

"In the early, and even middle part of the last century, in the neighbourhood of Batley, and such hilly grounds, manure was carried into the fields in what were called "Hotts," square boxes or crates, which hung like panniers over the backs of the horses, and which were, generally, managed by women. They had opening doors in the underside through which the tillage was discharged upon the land; and while one box or pannier was emptying the other was borne up by an assistant, or else by, what we call in Yorkshire, "A Buck." This account I received from very respectable old people at Batley, and I have since met with an article in Brocket's Glossary which corroborates it by shewing that such usage prevailed in other parts. "I have heard old people say," writes Mr. Brocket, "that between the confines of Yorkshire and Westmoreland, it was common for the men to employ themselves in knitting, while the women were

engaged in the servile employments of carrying these "Hots" upon their backs." It has been remarked to me that Hot is Hod, but I would prefer deducing it from the French word Hotte, signifying a scuttle, dosser or basket, to carry on the back.

"Every person who has travelled in France knows that the labours in agriculture in that country are chiefly sustained by the women; and this is one, amongst other things which displays the similarity of the manners and customs of the modern French and ancient English. This subject (broached only by myself,) I have discussed at length in a popular work."

The church at Batley will be described in the next book; we shall in this place only allude to some of its peculiarities which refer to remarkable characters or interesting events. The tower has at one time evidently served as a fortification and a place of defence, according to the custom to which we have so frequently had occasion to allude in this history. The inscription upon the monument of the great Lord Savile is a curious example of the tastless and verbose pomposity which characterised similar compositions of the age. The translation of the Latin part of it will be of no use to the reader; he will, however, be pleased by the perusal of some English verses appended to it, which we subjoin in a note.* Near the little gate on the south side of the church

* What sacred Ashes this sad Tomb contains!
In this low Grave what glorious remains!
His Deeds and Fame could once our World surprize,
Now—in a Narrow Cell—lo! here he lies.—

Here lies entomb'd a Peer of great renown,
A Spirit None but Death could e'er bring down—
The Title shews his Name—his Name is Glory,
Read but Old John Lord Savile—'tis a Story.

Great Pompey once, with one step on the ground.
Vaunted he could command all Latium round:
How far this Name commanded and made room,
Old York will witness to the Age to come.

Then rest, great Savile, since thy Scene is done,
In death resign—which living wouldst to none.
Here rest—thou hast been glorious in thy days—
There can no more be said of Cæsar's praise.

This is indeed sad turged stuff. It seems to have been the common maxim in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to bespatter the dead with every possible description of praise, and to refer to their dissolution rather as an apotheosis than a submission to the common lot of mortality.

yard is a grave stone, which is connected with a singular and somewhat interesting tradition. It exhibits the full length figure of a man with a sword by his side, with his hands clasped upon his breast, and his head resting upon a pillow. The following is the tradition in the neighbourhood relative to this stone—that he was a school-master, whose extreme severity excited the abhorrence of his scholars, who consequently rose upon him in a body, and killed him with his own sword.* There is another interesting relic at this church which also refers to a custom which formerly prevailed, and which it is to be sincerely regretted has ever been abolished. The old poors' box with its padlock and staple, conducts the memory back to a period when charity and public worship were synonymous, and when the church was seldom frequented by the more wealthy inhabitants of the vicinity, without the deposit of some small sum to be expended in the maintenance of the afflicted and destitute. We shall now refer to

MORLEY.

THERE can be little doubt that Morley, though now a mere village, was anciently a place of very considerable importance, and that in all probability it was one of the most populous and celebrated places in the whole of the district. Whatever it might have been in the Saxon times, it was reduced to a state of complete devastation at the time of the Conquest. The following is the description of it in Doomsday Book. "In Moreleia, Dunstan held six carucates of land to be taxed; and six carucates there may be which Ilbert has, but it is waste. There is a church.

* Upon this subject Mr. Scatcherd says, "This story I take to be, like most traditionary tales, made up of error, with a strong seasoning of truth. That this person was the schoolmaster here, I have no doubt,—and that he commonly wore a sword, and always a dagger, I have no doubt; for the Ecclesiastics of the early and middle ages, were often military men, and the dagger was worn by them even in Elizabeth's reign. But the Ecclesiastics, or rather the Priests, were not only military men but schoolmasters, and the only schoolmasters too, down to a late period. Independent, indeed, of the fact that they monopolized nearly all the science and learning of the dark ages—that they were Statesmen, Chancellors, Civilians, Architects, and Historians; (and, of course, the best qualified for the work of education) it would ill have suited the craft and policy of the Romish Church to have allowed the exercise of this important trust to laymen. This man in stone, therefore, I am well assured, was a Priest, a Vicar of the Church, and the Schoolmaster at Batley; and that his gravestone, once in the chancel, has been thrown out, upon the rebuilding of the Church in Henry the 6th or 8th's reign.

Wood pasture one mile long and one broad. Value in the time of King Edward, forty shillings." Although no inhabitants are mentioned in this survey, it appears from another passage in Doomsday Book that a number of people in the Wapentake were called upon to pronounce a verdict upon a disputed topic no doubt deemed, at that remote age, of the very last importance. "According to the verdict of the men of Morelege Wapentake, concerning the church of St. Mary, which is in Morley Wood, the king has a moiety of the three festivals of St. Mary's, which belongs to Wakefield. Ilbert and the priests who serve the church have all the rest." The argument which the excellent historian of the place has deduced from these facts to demonstrate the former consequence of Morley, is very conclusive. He refers to the following particulars—"That there was even in the reign of Edward the Confessor a church here——that it was dedicated to the mother of Christ and called St. Mary's ..... ——that the alms, oblations, or offerings, belonging to this church were considerable, and were enjoyed in moieties, one half by the king as seized of the advowson of the church at Wakefield, and the other moiety by his feodal baron and the Romish priests who here officiated——from all which circumstances, and from the town having given its name to the Wapentake, we may be sure that Morley, though now a poor manufacturing village, was in early times a place of considerable consequence.* This conclusion is strongly confirmed by a fact to which we have already adverted, that the Scots in their invasion of England, in the disastrous and inglorious reign of Edward II. wintered at Morley, and from this place, as their head quarters, spread terror and devastation throughout the surrounding country. Now when the bleak and exposed situation of Morley is considered, it will be evident that they could only have been induced to this selection for their abode during so long a period, by the number of its houses, the excellence of its accommodations, and consequently its superiority of magnitude and importance. That it was anciently possessed of a respectable numerical population, is proved by the fact of the existence of so rich and so celebrated a church as that of St. Mary's, which would surely have never been founded in a place where there was not an adequate and imposing number of parishioners. We have before affirmed our conviction that the annihilation of this consequence, and the decline and ruin of Mor-

* Hist. Morley, p. 3.

ley are to be attributed to the ravages of the Scots, whose ferocious character, inflamed by a sense of national injury, would be developed by the demolition or conflagration of the towns which they cursed with their presence. Mr. Scatcherd has mentioned a fact strongly confirmatory of this conviction. He states that on many wall stones in the neighbourhood, he has discovered evident marks of fire; and especially on some which have probably belonged to the church or chapel of Edward the Second's reign.* Our own belief is, that prior to this period Morley was the most flourishing town in the district which we are now reviewing.

Some very interesting and instructive particulars applicable not only to the ancient history of Morley, but to the whole of the neighbourhood south of Leeds, have been communicated to us by the gentleman to whom this work is placed under so many obligations. These particulars we shall give in the writer's own words, they will be found particularly important to those who are at present engaged in eliciting the immense metallic treasures of the district.

"From the rugged aspect of many places about Morley—the turning up of much scoriæ upon my own premises, and the name of a place at the Town's end still called "*The Cinder Hill,*" I am satisfied that in the Plantagenet reigns, or perhaps before them, there were iron foundries to the west, north, and north-east of Morley. The extensive beds of cinders discovered in our neighbouring woods, especially those of FARNLEY and MIDDLETON; and very near their respective rivulets, put the matter out of doubt; and, I am told, there are the same appearances at Bellisle. On the Middleton side of the new Dewsbury and Leeds road, (going thereto from our low common,) there is still the vestige of a large dam, and some remains of very large ovens, with thin bricks, such as the Romans used, were lately discovered. But the most curious fact connected with this discovery is, that these very works were, actually, *upon*, and BUT A FEW YARDS ABOVE, A THIN BED OF COAL, which the people of those times seem little to have regarded, using timber more than any thing for their blast or smelting. I do not think it certain, however, that they made no use of this coal, for their works are, generally, upon this strata; and, what are called "Bellpits" are found, as well at Holbeck, as Haigh-Moor-Side, and various neighbouring places. One thing seems quite evident, which is, that they kept

* Hist. Morley, p. 4.

very much to the Woods, and these brooks mentioned by Holinshed,* which once, probably, were large rivulets. Where they seem to have departed from this usage we can generally discover the reason of it, as in the instance of "Stone Pits" at the top of Neepshaw Lane, and within a few yards of the Roman road† before mentioned, called "the Street," and the ancient way crossing it from Loidis (Leeds) to Mancunium (Manchester.) In confirmation of these rugged pastures having had works of this kind upon them I would remark, in addition to what is before noticed, that the very name of "STONE Pits" bespeaks their origin; for the ore, with us, in Yorkshire, is still called "IRONSTONE;" therefore, for brevity, the old works, or mines, would be called the "Stone Pits," and there being no building materials, or stone likely to be gotten for roads, hereabouts, is a thing which well confirms my inference."‡

The history of the Old Chapel at Morley, the only place of worship on consecrated ground in England now in the hands of the Nonconformists, will be given in the next book. We shall

* Hist. of Morley, p. 165. † Ib. 201.

‡ Mr. Hunter (the Sheffield historian) has some pleasing and pertinent passages on this subject of our Yorkshire iron works. Having described, under the Anti-Norman period of his work, the ancient class of tenantry called "Villani," he adds, "But when we consider the mineral riches of the district, we can hardly hesitate to believe that to these another numerous class is to be added. Bede in the 8th century, mentions iron among the mineral productions of this Island; and the remarkable fact that in the midst of a mass of scoria the refuse of some ancient bloomary NEAR BRADFORD, was found a deposit of ROMAN COINS, seems to leave it indisputable that the iron mines of Yorkshire were explored by its Roman inhabitants. No where did the ore present itself more obviously by tinting, with its beautiful ochre, the beds of the streamlets in its vicinity; no where did it lie nearer to the surface; no where could there be greater facilities for subjecting the ore to the processes necessary to extract from it its metal, than in the forest through which the Don poured its waters. Many beds of scoria, of the kind just mentioned, are found in various parts of the parish of Sheffield, where there is now no tradition, or any record of works having existed. They are found in the park even, which for many centuries past has been peculiarly appropriated to the pleasure of the Lord. Over most of them the soil has so accumulated as to form a very thick crust, in which trees of ancient growth are at this moment flourishing. The probabilities are therefore strong that, before the Norman invasion, and that, even while the Romans had possession of the Island, the iron mines of Sheffield afforded employment to a considerable number of persons—some to draw the ore from its bed, others to extract it from the metal, and a third class in fabricating weapons, implements of husbandry, or domestic utensils."

bring together in this place some miscellaneous particulars in its history. The priory at Nostel had some land here during the existence of that monastic foundation; for Ralph de Lisle and William his son or brother, gave twelve oxgangs of land in Morley to that house; and Robert, son of Herbert de Beston, gave twelve acres of land here to the same priory. The most curious and perhaps the most ancient house in this vicinity is "Slack's Cottage," an ancient farm house, the property of the Earl of Dartmouth; it is an ancient lath and plaister cottage with a roof of exactly the same construction as that of the chapel.* Several houses exist built in the time of the Protectorate, and one to which the date of James I. is ascribed. Two places in the village still preserve names indicative of their former consequence—the Ratten Row, or muster-row, where the inhabitants of the Wapentake were formerly assembled—and the Hungrill, a word concerning some corrollative of which Drake says, "If it would not be thought pedantry in me to give my opinion, I should decisively derive it from the Huns or Easterling merchants, who had staples or marts at the most considerable towns in the kingdom."†

The manor of Morley now belongs to the Earl of Dartmouth, who owns about one thousand six hundred of the two thousand three hnndred acres of land which the township contains. This noble proprietor has, on different occasions, honourably signalised himself by the acts of true beneficence which he has performed to the inhabitants.

Howley Hall was formerly the most important, and its remains still constitute the most attractive, objects of attention in this township. The name of Howley means the field on the hill, where, says Dr. Whitaker, for several generations, was the mag-

* Of this cottage the historian of Morley says, "The shaft of the chimney, immensely large and formed of lath and plaster, with a top of sticks and bindings, being doubtless a funnel for the smoke, constructed at an after period, displays the antiquity of the dwelling.—But the fire-place is the most surprising—it is eleven feet ten inches wide; five feet two inches deep; and five feet five inches high. In the centre of this space, no doubt, in ancient times, was the reredosse or the skeleton of a rude range; and here, around a fire, partly perhaps of coal, but principally of wood, did the ancestors of Slack sit plaiting their straw hats by the light *of the chimney* in the day time. These interesting glimpses at the occupations and habits of our old natives, I have delighted from boyhood to catch from the oldest people. If they seem strange at the present day, how much more will they amuse our posterity?"

† Ebor. 312. Scatcherd, 187.

nificent seat of an illigitimate branch of the Saviles, though by address and court favour they outstripped the heads of the family for a time in honour.

Of the family of the Saviles, however we may be tempted by the nature of the materials, we must abstain from giving an account until we arrive at the last book of our work.

Howley Hall must have been one of the most splendid residences in Yorkshire, or in the kingdom. Camden, in a passage elsewhere alluded to, calls it "a most elegant house," and if the magnificence of any edifice is to be estimated by the amount of the sum expended upon its erection, then this must have been one of the most superb residences Britain has ever seen. About two hundred yards to the north-west, was an ancient mansion of the Mirfields,* which was abandoned, and probably destroyed, when the more modern hall was built. It was erected by Sir John Savile, afterwards baron of Pontefract, and finished in the year 1590; but it received considerable additions and improvements from his son, the first Earl of Sussex of the family. Part of the old mansion was preserved in the outhouses and offices of the new one, and Dr. Whitaker declares that one part which appears to have been the chapel, exhibits some appearances of antiquity greater than he had ever observed in a domestic building, and probably not later than the year 1200. This hall, at the time of its erection, is said to have cost one hundred thousand pounds, that is to say about six hundred thousand pounds of our present money—a sum which staggers credulity itself, and must certainly be immensely exaggerated. From an elevation of the south front, which has been preserved, the house seems to have truly merited the appellation of Camden; it had a high and massive tower at each extremity; the middle, or principal building was perfectly regular and well proportioned; it had a projecting centre, or porch, on the south side, ornamented with columns and capitals; and the battlements on the summit, the chimnies so constructed as to rise like the minarets of an oriental mosque, and the high and graceful cupolas surmounting the whole, must have imparted to it an aspect extremely noble and striking. The plan and arrangment of the interior it is impossible now to ascertain. A fine bowling green was annexed to the west side of the hall, a

* Compare Whitaker's Loid. and Elm. 238, with Scatcherd's Hist. Morl. 235. In an account of the antiquities at this place, which it is impossible for us to describe; the reader is referred to the latter work quoted and to the page.

cherry orchard occupied the east, an ornamental garden the north, and a kitchen garden the south. This mansion continued the pride and the ornament of the country until 1730, when we are told, that by the false representations of a designing agent, Christopher Hodson, to the Earl of Cardigan, then its owner, an order was given for its demolition; that mad mandate was carried into effect, the colossal masses which composed the angles were blown up with gunpowder, immense quantities of its wrought stone were dispersed through Morley, Birstall, Batley, and the neighbouring hamlets, many rooms at Wakefield were adorned with the wainscotting, and the Presbyterian meeting house at Bradford was fitted up with the same material.

We have already given a full account of the principal events which occurred in the history of Howley Hall, its being garrisoned by the Parliamentarians, and besieged by the royalists in the great civil war. Those of our readers who are desirous of perusing a more extended and minute account of the historical particulars relating to it, may consult the History of Morley, p. 235—262, where they will find all they can desire. There are two reputed facts connected with the place which, however, we must not omit. The first is that the celebrated Rubens visited Lord Savile in Howley Hall, and painted for him a view of Pontefract—and the second is, that Archbishop Usher here assumed the disguise of a Jesuit in order to try the controversial talents of Robert Cooke, the learned vicar of Leeds.

Lady Anne's Well, commonly supposed to have been so called from Lady Anne or Anna Sussex, and frequented annually on Palm Sunday by the surrounding villagers, who at six o'clock on the morning of that day drink its waters upon the strange supposition of their preternatural efficacy, is situated on the south-east side of the ruins near to Soothill wood. Mr. Scatcherd thinks that this observance of the villagers is a remnant of the veneration attached to wells reputed to be holy, which formerly prevailed in this country; and he asserts, and it may be added, proves, that in the immediate neighbourhood was formerly a chapel before the church was erected at Batley, called a Field-kirk, which originated the well known Field-cock, or, as he thinks it should be called, Field-kirk fair.

One curious circumstance connected with this vicinity remains to be recorded. At a short distance from the farm house at Howley, near the foot-path to Morley, is a small stone with this

inscription, "Here Nevison killed Flecher, 1684." This Nevison was one of the boldest and most successful highwaymen whose exploits ever filled the pages of the Newgate Calendar, or excited the terror of the country. Born in Pontefract, he was well acquainted with this locality, and frequently made it the scene of his exploits. He was allured also to this district by the presence of a profligate married woman, with whom he carried on a criminal intercourse. Government, towards the close of the reign of Charles II. had offered a large reward for his apprehension; and this Flecher, by the assistance of his brother, determined to effect the capture of the robber. They watched their opportunity, and while Nevison was in the farm house, the Flechers vanquished, and, as they supposed, disarmed him, and secured in the stable his horse, celebrated for its astonishing swiftness. But Nevison leaped from the window of his apartment and alighted unhurt upon a heap of manure beneath; Flecher, confident in his vast athletic power, pursued and overtook him, and after a short but desperate struggle, both fell, Nevison being undermost. But the robber had a short pistol in his bosom, with which he fired through the heart of his antagonist, who died instantly. The robber then recovered his horse, and rode with such astonishing speed to York, where he appeared on the Bowling Green, that on his trial he established an alibi, and was acquitted. With his subsequent exploits, with his trial and his death, this history has no connection.

SOOTHILL HALL is in the immediate vicinity of Howley, and was formerly the seat of an ancient family of the same name. The hall, of which some vestiges yet remain, was built about the reign of Mary. It is scarcely possible to ascertain with precision the dimensions or the form of the building; the hall is yet remaining, with a small adjoining apartment called the Bishop's Parlour, once the room of Bishop Tilson, of whom a short memoir in another place will be presented to the reader.

CHURWELL can only be mentioned in this place on account of the singular origin of its name. It signifies *the well of churls*, not, says Thoresby, "in the sense that Nabal is said to have been churlish, but in the true notion of the word, which in its original had nothing of reproach in it, but signified husbandmen."*

CARLINGHOW is a poor hamlet, formerly remarkable for a

* Ducatus, 219.

very old building, called by Mr. Scatcherd, one of the most antique looking houses he ever beheld—once occupied by the Ellands of Elland, and after them by the Deightons, and conjectured to have formed the head quarters of the Marquis of Newcastle, the night before the battle of Adwalton Moor.

BRUNTCLIFFE is referred to for the sake of narrating one of those remarkable discoveries of crime, which frequently display the vigilance of a retributive providence in a manner which scepticism itself cannot evade. A small publican, Thomas Hellewell, resided at Bruncliffe in 1822. On the night of the seventh of February in that year, his family were aroused by fire in the stack-garth, one or two of the stacks were soon consumed, and had it not been for the powerful and active assistance of the neighbours, there is no doubt that the flames would soon have reached the mistal, where thirteen head of cattle were housed. The detection of the incendiary was accomplished by means the most extraordinary. A slight fall of snow had just covered the ground, and footsteps were clearly discernible about the stack-yard, formed by very remarkable shoes, the sole of one of them having been curiously mended, and the nails being very prominent. Hellewell pursued this track with singular activity and resolution, and succeeded, after a devious chace, in capturing the incendiary at Beeston, with the very shoes on his feet, before eight o'clock the same morning. John Vickers proved to be his name, and revenge for a very trivial provocation was his motive. He was convicted at York, and only escaped from execution by being transported for life.

GILDERSOME, according to Mr. Scatcherd,* is a corruption of Guelderzoom. Zoom, says that writer, in the Dutch language signifies hem or seam, and metaphorically a border or boundary, and the word consequently means the village boundary or district of the Gueldres. The acute and sensible writer we are now quoting, ascribes the origin of this appellation to persecution for conscience sake. To the cruelties inflicted upon the Protestants in Flanders by the Duke of Alva, and the politic encouragement of them by Elizabeth, the same author ascribes the chief population of those spots in this vicinity which have at length become large villages. He therefore concludes that Gildersome was so called from the emigrant traders, who fleeing from Guelderland about 1571, here found an asylum.† From a variety

* History of Morley, 292. † History of Morley, 292.

of evidences it is certain that Gildersome, whatever was the origin of its name, was a highly respectable village in the early part of the seventeenth century, and many of its principal inhabitants were distinguished during the civil wars for their zealous exertions in the cause of the Parliament. To the "History of Morley" so often quoted, we must refer for further particulars concerning them. There are no old buildings at present in Guildersome, the most ancient being of the age of Charles II—the old hall which was built by one of the Dickinson family is not older than the reign of William III. Gildersome, on account of its connexion with the Quakers, and on account too of some curious transactions of its traders, will occupy a prominent place both in our ecclesiastical and commercial departments.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BATLEY.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Batley,	2,594	2,975	3,717	4,841
Churwell,	502	666	814	1,023
Gildersome,	1,232	1,409	1,592	1,652
Morley,	2,108	1,457	3,031	3,819
Total,				11,335

THE PARISH OF BIRSTAL.

SINCE the description of the beautiful church at Birstal is reserved for the next book, our account of the village itself will be very contracted, and particularly so as it presents few scenes, and is connected with few transactions of importance.

Birstal is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, but it is commonly conjectured that it was one of two manors said to be in Gomersal. The whole parish was included within the fee of Lacy, it is highly probable that it formed a part of the Saxon parish of Morley, and that the church at Birstal was founded for the accommodation of the vicinity on account of the distance of that at Morley. The tombstones in the church yard point to no characters which are sufficiently prominent for description in this limited abridgment. Not far from Birstal church is Oakwell Hall, upon which the date 1583 yet remains, it is a very fine specimen of the style of building which prevailed in the country in the reign of Elizabeth, and much to the credit of its owners, it is kept in excellent and characteristic repair. We have already related an incident which occurred at Oakwell Hall after the battle of Adwalton, it was entered by the royalists in search of republicans, and the terror of a nurse of Mrs. Batt, who had just been confined, was so great, that she took up the child and fled with it in great haste to Pontefract for its security.

ADWALTON is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, it was formerly written and pronounced Adderton, and it is now generally designated by the people in the neighbourhood, *Atherton*. Two derivations have been given of its name. Some have supposed from the manner in which the word is pronounced, that it is derived from the moor near which it is situated, and which abounds with heather, whence *Heatherton;* but others, and evidently with more propriety, believe that it is a corruption of "ad Vallum," that it deduces its origin from the Romans, and that it proves the road on which it lies to have been a Roman road. There is a curious tradition among the inhabitants of

Adwalton, which may be founded upon truth, although it is confirmed by no historic testimony that we can discover. It is stated that Queen Elizabeth in one of her journeys came to Adwalton, that she slept in a house whose site is now occupied by the White Horse Inn, and that she was so grateful for the attentions and hospitalities of the inhabitants that she granted them the privilege of holding an annual fair. It is useless to attempt to decide the truth or falsehood of this tradition. It is, however, indubitable that there was a fair at Adwalton in 1661. In our history of Wakefield, we have given an account of the fruitless attempt which was made by the inhabitants of Adwalton to prevent the establishment of the cattle fair in the former town. The fairs at Adwalton, though on the decline, are still kept up, they are held on the twenty-sixth of February, on the Thursdays in Easter and Whitsun weeks, and on every other Thursday till September 29th. Adwalton is in the chapelry of DRIGHLINGTON, a village which is only remarkable for its grammar school, founded in 1691, and of which an account will be furnished in our literary history.

Most of the remaining townships and villages in the parish of Birstal are so ancient as to have existed at the time of the Conquest, and are consequently mentioned in Doomsday Book. From that compilation we make the following extracts. "In Gomersale, Dunstan and Gamel had four carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be six ploughs. Ilbert has it and it is waste. Value in king Edward's time forty shillings. Wood pasture one mile long and one broad. In Wiche (Wyke) Stainulf and Westre had four carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be two ploughs. Ilbert has it, and it is waste. Value in king Edward's time twenty shillings. Wood pasture four quarentens long, and four broad.——In Heton (Clekheaton) Dunstan, Ravenehil had six carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be three ploughs. Ilbert has it and it is waste. Value in king Edward's time, twenty shillings.——In Liversec (Liversedge) Levenot and Gerneber had four carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be two ploughs. Now Raidulf has it of Ilbert. There are five villanes and four bordars with two ploughs. Wood pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. Value twenty shillings, now ten shillings."

Miserable must have been the state of these villages, or rather of this tract of country, at this melancholy period, when in

Liversedge alone, the remotest trace of population was to be found, and every other part of the parish presented one gloomy aspect of depopulation and ruin. The Saxon proprietors had all either been exterminated or expatriated, the ground was no longer tilled and was no longer profitable, and the Norman soldiers might have traversed the whole without finding one single peasant upon whom to wreak their fury, or one single cottage to consign to the flames. The parish of Birstal perhaps gradually recovered from its devastation, the land was progressively rendered productive, and the homely abodes of rustic labour again enlivened the scene. But the signs of returning prosperity were again obliterated by the Scots during their disastrous sojourn at Morley. Birstal is one of the places expressly mentioned as one of the scenes of their plunder, all the inhabitants who could remove would flee from the presence of these ferocious barbarians; and we can entertain no wonder at the fact we have already stated, that when Edward II. was desirous of raising an army to arrest the progress of the enemy, he was unable to find men in this part of the kingdom, and was compelled to send for soldiers to other counties of England.

As LIVERSEDGE was the place where among all these townships population existed at the time of the Conquest, so it was long afterwards particularly honoured by the residence of a highly respectable and distinguished family. Having already, in our account of Hunslet, referred to the Neviles, we shall only add in this place that they long possessed, in Liversedge, a park, a manor, and a mansion. The remains of the hall are still in existence, and prove it to have been built in the time of Henry VII. to have consisted of a centre and two wings, and to have corresponded, when the style of the age is considered, with the character supposed to belong to the mansion of an opulent resident landowner. The deep bay window of the hall, though divided by a floor, is yet entire, except the battlement; and the roof, with light flying principals, has a wall plate with embattled carving. In the west wing was the chapel, where there still is to be seen a curious window formed by four uniting circular compartments, and surrounded by a ring on the wall. It was from this house that the ravages of the plague, in the sixteenth century, drove the proprietor, for safety from infection, to his residence at Hunslet. The new church built at Liversedge by the Rev. Hammond Roberson, will soon be described.

The traces of a Roman residence at CLEKHEATON have already been mentioned, and the probability is that here there was a station for the troops on their march from Legeolium to Mancunium. Here there was a chapel called the Old White Chapel in the East, which Archbishop Sharpe refused to consecrate on account of its dilapidated condition, and which has since been superseded by a new and commodious church.

Great and Little GOMERSALL constitute a township, and it is a curious and unaccountable circumstance, that although Birstal gives its name to the whole parish, it is not a township of itself, but is included in that of Gomersal.

HECKMONDWIKE is one of those numerous places in this part of the country which, under the influence of manufacturing industry, has risen into population and importance. It is now rather a town than a village, a large straggling place, and though one of the most industrious, indubitably one of the most unsightly in the country. It possesses, however, very considerable importance on account of its immense blanket and carpet manufactories —the blanket hall, for the sale of that description of goods, is open from one to two o'clock every Monday and Thursday. The new church, the first stone of which was laid March 3, 1830, and the celebrated lecture of the Congregational ministers in the vicinity, will be described in their proper place. One of the most terrific accidents happened in Heckmondwike in the year 1829, that ever occurred in this district. On the twelfth of April in that year, Mr. Dawson, of Barnbow, a well known and exceedingly popular preacher among the Wesleyan Methodists, was delivering a discourse for the benefit of the Sunday school attached to the chapel in that connexion in Heckmondwike. The congregation was exceedingly large, and the place was so crowded that numbers were unable to gain admission. In the midst of the service the pipe of a stove fell, and the noise it occasioned created such alarm that the people believed that the gallery was coming down. The whole congregation, seized with a sudden panic, made a simultaneous rush to the doors, and a most awful scene of confusion and consternation immediately ensued. According to the testimony of persons who were present at the scene, those who first gained the narrow passages leading from the galleries were thrown down by those behind, who in their turn were overwhelmed by those rushing from the body of the chapel. All the exertions of the preacher to arrest the progress of the general

terror were unavailing, his voice was drowned in the shrieks of the terrified and the groans of the dying. When the confusion had subsided, a spectacle was presented certainly the most melancholy that ever was exhibited in this district; two heaps of persons unable to rise were piled up at the doors to the height of four or five feet—five persons were taken out dead, six or seven thus were removed in an apparently lifeless state, and more than twenty more were injured. The whole village was involved in anxiety and confusion, and the present generation must all be removed before the recollection of this tremendous calamity is effaced.

HUNSWORTH is a small village at the extremity of the parish towards Bradford, occupied by worsted and woollen manufacturers, but without any claim to especial notice.

WYKE is a township, like all the rest in this parish, replete with industry and manufacturing establishments. BIRKINSHAW, a village connected with it, is distinguished by a new church, and is enriched by an inexhaustible fund of coals, and a vast supply of ironstone. A seminary at Wyke will be mentioned in another place.

TONG, like several of the villages or townships to which we have just referred, is mentioned in Doomsday Book. It is there stated, "In Tuinc, Stainulf had four carucates of land to be taxed where there may be two ploughs. Ilbert has it, and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings. Wood pasture, half a mile long, and half broad." Tong was anciently the seat of a family who took their surname from the place, and of which there are authentic memorials as high as the reign of Henry III. Hugh de Tonge, in the reign of Henry VI., was seized of the manor of Tong, and lands in Grimesthorpe, Cowlinghead, Owlecotes, Tyersal, Schawe, Hulme, Ricroft, and Scelbrooke. His eldest daughter was married to Robert Mirfield, son and heir of William Mirfield of Howley, and with the Mirfields the estate continued until the reign of Elizabeth, when Ellen, the daughter of Christopher Mirfield, married Henry Tempest, and thus brought the estate into that family. Thomas Plumbe, of Wavertree, in the county of Lancaster, Esq., married Elizabeth, daughter of John Tempest, Esq., and thus brought the estate to the Plumbes, with whom it still remains. Tong Hall is a very excellent house; it was built by Sir George Tempest, Bart, in 1702, and was one of the earliest specimens

of the square sashed Italian house in this part of the country. According to Thoresby, it was esteemed in his time "a stately hall," and a Latin inscription commemorated both the munificence of the founder and the skill of the architect. The manor is commonly called the lordship of Tong, and abounds with beautifully variegated scenery. Concerning this place, Dr. Whitaker uses the following highly characteristic language. "The situation is pleasing, in a park, and amidst a succession of swelling grounds, and sloping woods of native growth, with which the country abounds. Directly in front is the vast and long protracted line of the Moravian settlement at Fulneck, *which cannot be said to contribute to the beauties of Tong.*" These Moravians, in the jaundiced eye of this most prejudiced doctor, were *sectaries* —they did not go to church, they did not submit to the controul of the clergy, and therefore the magnificent buildings they have reared, and the delightful exhibition of industry their most prosperous and laudable settlement affords, were disgusting to the view of detestable bigotry. We have no doubt that the proprietors of Tong Hall, associating the view of this settlement with the moral character which belongs to it, regard it as one of the most animating objects presented to their view, calculated alike to please the eye and to impress the heart.

The celebrated men of most different and diametrically opposite characters and fame which the parish of Birstal has produced, will be noticed in the proper place. It may here be observed that whatever may be thought of the manners of the residents in this portion of our district, their acuteness, their diligence, and their success, not only in mercantile and manufacturing, but in literary and other honourable pursuits, all demonstrate their natural intellectual abilities, and prove their capacities to be equal if not superior to those of any population in the empire. There are few parishes in the kingdom which can boast of having produced men of mind equal to Archbishop Margerison and Dr. Priestley.

The opulence of this parish has astonishingly increased within the last thirty years. In every direction are now visible excellent houses, surrounded with thriving plantations; opulence, intelligence, and even a certain degree of refinement, are to be found in a considerable number of families; the condition of the poor was formerly comparatively comfortable, and although of late years there has in this respect been a change for the worse, it

would be difficult to find in the whole district a scene of more persevering diligence and of more frequent wealth.

It is a curious fact that there are few large houses to be found in this parish older than the age of Cromwell. Whatever estimate our readers may have formed of the character and motives of this truly extraordinary man, it is certain that this part of the country astonishingly revived during his Protectorate, and it is indubitable that to his age must be assigned the commencement of its progressive improvement and prosperity.

A circumstance is recorded concerning vegetation in this parish, which conducts to a tradition of the most astounding character. In the year 1782, the attention of the inhabitants of Birstal was directed to the following fact. A slip from the Glastonbury thorn, planted twenty years previously, budded on Old Christmas day, the weather having previously been remarkably warm and open for the season. Of the original thorn it is believed, that Joseph of Arimathea, while preaching at Glastonbury on Christmas day, on the birth of Christ, in order to convince his unbelieving hearers of the truth of his statement, struck his staff into the ground, and it attested the truth of his doctrines by immediately producing buds and blossoms!

We have already described the Luddite commotions which took place in this parish twenty years ago, and the desperate but unsuccessful attack made by a party of insurgents upon the mill of Mr. Cartwright at Rawfolds, (see p. 73.)

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BIRSTAL.

	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.
Clekheaton, ...	1,637	1,911	2,436	3,317
Drighlington, ...	1,232	1,365	1,719	1,676
Gomersal, ...	4,303	5,002	5,952	6,189
Heckmondwike, ...	1,742	2,324	2,579	2,793
Hunsworth, ...	585	764	870	878
Liversedge, ...	2,837	3,643	4,259	5,265
Tong, ...	1,336	1,505	1,893	2,067
Wyke, ...	985	1,325	1,509	1,918
Total, ...				24,103

Having thus completed the Civil History of our district, it is necessary to take a general review of the statements which have been made, with especial reference to those great epochs which evidently mark distinct periods in the annals of the country.

The state of the district under the Roman sway, as far as it can be estimated from the scattered details which we have presented to our readers, was by no means enviable. Although at Castleford, at Leeds, at Addle, at Clekheaton, at Wakefield, and at a few other places, we have seen the traces of their towns and minor settlements; although their roads traversed the country and afforded every facility for communication; yet we have reason to believe that the population under their sway was never very great, and that large tracts of country were uncultivated and unproductive. Whether in these days any manufactures existed, any extensive opulence was circulated, any knowledge was diffused, or any domestic refinement was enjoyed, we have no means of ascertaining. Burgodunum and Legeolium were unquestionably their most important settlements, but it does not seem likely that they were ever distinguished by considerable magnitude and population.

Of the Saxon times we have better means of judging, in consequence of the descriptions which we have extracted from Doomsday Book. The royal palaces and mighty fortifications which at one time existed at Berwick, at Osmundthorp, and at Bardsey, all prove that at one period this district was more highly favoured than any other part of Northumbria, that it was the scene of Saxon magnificence, and the residence of Saxon sovereigns. The dreadful wars and confusion which prevailed towards the decline of the Saxon power, the horrible ravages of the Danes, whom we know to have had two permanent encampments in this district at any rate, (Tingley and Armley,) must have disseminated general misery, and materially diminished population; and although by the time of Edward the Confessor, there might be some slight advances to renewed prosperity, the people were but few in number, and involved in the greatest misery. If we are to take the entries in Doomsday Book as data for calculation, we shall find reason to believe that the whole population of this district did not amount to more than six or seven thousand souls—a population which is now exceeded by that of many of its manufacturing villages. The greatest part of the land was either in pasture, or was entirely uncultivated—and there can be little doubt but that thanes, and bordars, and villanes, with their corresponding subordinate labourers, were almost always in want of the luxuries, and frequently of the necessaries, of life. That part of the district which was the most important to the Saxons, is

now the most thinly peopled and the poorest in the whole—such revolutions are as common as they are impressive—we see the places where courts were collected and monarchs displayed their wealth and their power, abandoned to the animals of the forest, to desolation and to solitude, while scenes once barren and dreary, are covered with a numerous population, and all the cheering indications of industry and intelligence.

As the departure of the Romans may be regarded as the *first*, and the settlement of the Saxons the *second*, so the conquest by William the Norman may be considered the *third great epoch* in the history of the district. We have seen how dreadfully this ruthless barbarian ravaged almost the whole of this part of the country; we have seen that in four cases out of five, the notices of Doomsday Book declare the places to which they respectively refer to have been waste; and we have every reason to believe that the few inhabitants who escaped the sword of sanguinary emissaries of William's vengeance, were ground down to the dust by tyrannical impositions and exactions.

The reign of Edward II. we may assert to constitute the *fourth epoch* in our history. After property had been distributed by the Conqueror, and it became the interest, and therefore, no doubt the practice of the barons, to protect their tenants and serfs, some degree of order would soon be restored; agriculture would become more general and population would increase; Morley, Wakefield, and perhaps Leeds, expanded into comparatively considerable towns; but the general anarchy in the kingdom, and more especially the marauding incursions of the Scots, soon changed the scene; the residence of these barbarians for a whole winter at Morley, was the greatest curse this district ever knew; and, as we have already stated, the reign of Edward II, may be fixed upon as the period of its greatest depression.

The fifth epoch in our history may be assigned to the reign of Henry VIII. when by the dissolution of the monasteries a mighty change was effected in the possession of landed property, and when by the distribution of that property into a greater number of hands, an impulse was given to every social transaction which has not subsided to the present day. Then, after the mad Pilgrimage of Grace, a settled government superseded intestine anarchy, property became comparatively secure, industry enjoyed the possession of its reward, and trade soon began to extend its reviving influence, and to increase the wealth and comfort of the inhabi-

tants. From this period houses began to be built in every direction, the land was cultivated with assiduity, villages were formed, and some faint prediction was given of the importance and affluence which the district has attained.

The Protectorate of Cromwell is the *sixth epoch* in our history. After the civil wars had subsided, and the sword was once more turned into the ploughshare, commerce and agriculture expanded with astonishing elasticity, and both have continued in progression to the present hour. Since to this subject we shall pay especial attention in our history of trade, we shall content ourselves here with expressing our conviction, that the age of Cromwell, the era of the passing of the Navigation Act, had a more momentous and beneficial influence upon the affairs of this district, than any other which has evolved in the whole course of its history.

The *seventh* and last epoch in the history of this district, and most certainly the most important of the whole, was last year, when the principal towns were endowed with the elective franchise, and were acknowledged in the legislature in their commercial and manufacturing opulence and importance.

On the future condition of our district—on the events which may evolve to effect the prosperity of its inhabitants, and to furnish materials for subsequent historians, it is useless to speculate. If its intelligence, its knowledge, its public spirit, and its moral principle be maintained, and if the influence of all combined continue to operate, we have little doubt but that brighter days are before it than it has ever yet enjoyed, and that its population, as they accumulate in numbers, will increase in all the prosperity that forms the happiness, and in all the virtues that constitute the ornament, of civil society.

ADDENDA TO BOOK I.

LETTER from Mr. Scatcherd to the editor of the Leeds Intelligencer relative to Woodchurch, alluded to p. 331 :—

Mr. Editor,—Some of your readers will recollect that on the 12th of last July the roof belonging to the nave of Woodchurch fell in with a tremendous crash, breaking down the walls, and destroying the fine old pews called the Topcliffe, Westerton, and Haigh Hall seats, laying every thing, in short, in ruins beneath it. When first I heard of this misfortune, being an ardent lover of our national antiquities, I hastened to the spot—anxious, principally, for the fate of *the chancel*. This I had the satisfaction to find uninjured, except as to the arch, dividing it from the nave, which was much shaken.

The light now diffused through the chancel roof enabled the visitor to perceive that its walls were hollow, or rather that they had, at some after period, been lathed and plastered (or "stoothed," as the term is), and, what was more remarkable, it enabled the antiquary to discover the reason of this alteration. Upon the ancient walls, from the ceiling downwards, and from the arch to the eastern wall, some old black letter characters were "dimly visible," in separate compartments, surrounded with antique scrolls or borders. They were all in Latin, but so darkened and concealed were they, by the "stoothing," that the word "Thomas," alone, could be made out. In fact, the rotten state both of the roof and ceiling increased, considerably, the difficulty of the task.

The body of the church being nearly rebuilt, I revisited Woodchurch this 1st of February, and have been well repaid for my trouble. The arch before-mentioned it was necessary to take down; and, in putting up a new one, the workmen were compelled to displace some of the lath and plaister of the chancel. Judge my surprise when I perceived a portion only of the ancient interior!! It now appears that the *whole* of these walls (or nearly so) have been beautifully PAINTED and GILDED, having on them roses, white and red, tulips, anemonies or poppies, and other flowers; *grapes*, *peaches*, and various choice fruits, with leaves and other decorations, the colours of which, even yet, are delightful.

What a train of thoughts now broke upon my mind! The spacious chancel *in its pristine state*—rich with fruits and flowers, bespangled with gold, glowing with the rays of the sun through its painted windows, or the candles or torches of the priests from the high altar—the canons, in their conventical dresses, seated in the rich stalls or "selle" which still distinguish this interesting edifice—their solemn chaunt, the pomp and splendour of their worship and processions—all these and many other reflections passed in review before me, as the rude innovating hands of the workmen tore from the south wall the painted and gilded plaister, unmindful of its beauty.

One other consideration now only remains. For what purpose was all this charming work of art concealed by a casing of lath and plaister! I can solve the question by supposing the black letter characters relate to that which, even by Catholic Harry the 8th, was considered superstitious or idolatrous, and that policy suggested this mode of putting it out of sight; and, certain I am, that nothing short of imperious necessity could have effected an alteration so singular, and, apparently, useless.

Burton informs us, in his Monastacon, that "in the 31st of H. 8th the site of Nostel Priory was given to Thomas Leigh, doctor of laws, and one of the King's visitors of religious houses;" and its subordinate cell at "Wodekirke" being evidently destroyed at the same period, it is highly probable that the site of this, also, was given to Dr. Leigh. My reason for this belief arises from the name of the Kirk fair, which is still called "LEIGH" or "LEE," "FAIR;" besides the recollection of family connections between the ancient family of Leigh, and those of certain noblemen, now lords of manors in this vicinity.

It is certain, however, that the preference of lath and plaister to whitewash did not answer the expectations of the black canons at "Wodekirke" in the middle of the 15th century.

Who this "Thomas," in black letter, was, whom the Catholic Priests set up in their "holy of holies"—whether Thomas de Dereford their 19th prior, or Thomas a Beckett their great saint, or St. Thomas "the apostle," who, with their jesuitical cunning, they called the "Apostle of India," giving it out that HE HAD CONVERTED ALL INDIA, and collecting money, gloves, and valuables for him, OR RATHER FOR THEMSELVES—who, I say, this Thomas was, cannot, now, be known, unless the present Earl of Cardigan, to whom the support of the chancel belongs, should (to save a *greater future expense*) give orders for the repair of a roof which is just ready to follow the course of its late neighbour, and destroy the most interesting chancel of a country church in this part of the West Riding.

Hoping, Sir, that your well known attachment to the established church, and acquaintance with my motive in troubling you, will procure for this letter a place in your paper, I remain your's respectfully, N. S.

Morley, 2nd of February, 1832.

CALVERT'S MUSEUM, LEEDS.

We regret that, from an oversight, we passed over this very interesting collection of natural and artificial curiosities. It contains more than 15,000 different specimens, including quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, shells, corals, madrepores, minerals, organic remains, ancient and modern arms and armour, coins, and medals. The whole arranged in scientific order, and accompanied by a descriptive catalogue. The quadrupeds are displayed in cases under the birds, and it is presumed are equal to any collection in England, either for rarity, number, or preservation. Among them may be observed the lion, tiger, panther, leopard, jaguar, with arctic and other wolves, to the most minute species. The birds consist of vultures, the most striking of which is a noble specimen of the condor; eagles, buzzards, hawks, owls, shrikes, or butcher birds, parrots, maccaws, cockatoos, lories,

toucans, orioles, thrushes, woodpeckers, specimens of birds of Paradise, cuckoos, kingfishers, bee eaters, chatterers, nanakins, humming birds; numerous water fowl, the African crowned crane, spoonbills, and fine specimens of the egrets; pigeons, patridges, pheasants and grouse. The splendid specimens of the cassowary ostrich, (standing 9 feet high,) peacocks, and the argus pheasant, are equal to any in Europe. The various smaller British birds are also arranged in their respective families. The cases are tastefully enlivened with landscapes at the back of each, which seem to convey an idea of their haunts and modes of life. The amphibious animals and reptiles include the tortoises and turtles, among which is the gigantic Indian tortoise, upwards of three feet long, crocodiles, numerous lizards, the great boa, and various other species, including rattle snakes. The insects comprise a brilliant display of this interesting department of nature. They are arranged in glass table cases, and together with the crustacea, as crabs, lobsters, cray fish, monoculi, sea horse, &c., form a peculiarly interesting collection. Marine productions and shells, are contained in large glass table cases, and in a large lighted case, in the centre of the room; they consist of corals, corallines, madrepores, gorgonias, sponges, &c. &c. The shells comprise above a thousand species, to each of which is affixed its name and locality. The minerals are systematically arranged, each class being distinguished by different coloured traits; among them are some truly splendid specimens; the groupes of crystals, the chromates of lead, malachites, and other matters from Siberia, are uncommonly fine. Amongst the fossils, or organic remains of a former world, may be noticed a fine specimen of an elk's horn, found in Ireland, and a lumnar vertebral bone of the mammoth. Trophies, of ancient and modern arms and armour, warlike implements, and curious specimens of the ingenuity of the barbarous tribes, and a great variety of other miscellaneous objects, are tastefully displayed above the cases, and tend greatly to relieve the monotony, which might otherwise exist. The Museum is kept open every day in the week, (except Sundays) and the admission is 1s.; catalogue, 1s.; and a perpetual ticket for the year, is ten shillings.

THORPE ON THE HILL.

SEE PAGE 265.

FROM SCATCHERD'S MORLEY.

THORPE, often corrupted into Thrup, seems to be an Anglo Saxon word, signifying a lodge in a forest, or a hamlet.—Lidgate, the poet, in his Troy Boke, b. 11, c. 10, mentions "provinces, borowes, villages, and thropes."

At Thorpe once lived the respectable family of Gascoigns, related to, no doubt, if not descended from, that celebrated Judge who lies interred in Harewood Church. This great man was born at Gawthorpe, in the Township of Harewood, in 1350, and died in 1413, leaving several children, and a fame imperishable for the integrity and courage which he displayed on two trying occasions. He resolutely refused to pass sentence upon Archbishop Scroope as a traitor, though urged to do so by the imperious command of an absolute monarch (Henry 4th), alleging, in justification of himself, that it would be violation to the laws of the land were he to comply. And, at another time, when Henry the 5th, then Prince of Wales, assaulted him on the bench, he committed him to prison. Such conduct as this may be well contrasted with that of a descendant of his—Lord Strafford—who with all his

pliability and court favour, was never so high in the public esteem as the Chief Justice---the spirit, in fact, and views of these men were very different. The one insisted on a King being subject to laws---the other would have a King above all law, as sufficiently appears from the Radcliffe Letters.

The first Gascoign of Thorpe, whom I can find in their pedigree, was John, who lived in the reign of Henry the 8th. After him there are several descents which, for brevity's sake, I omit, and skip at once to Henry Gascoign, baptized the 19th of November, 1586, and buried 20th Sept. 1645. "His eldest son William," says the writer of MSS. Collections for the West Riding, in the Leeds Old Library, was slain at Melton-Mowbray, in the Civil War; he was famous for his astronomical discoveries and mathematical genius, in which studies he wrote some manuscripts."

Whether the former part of this paragraph be not one of the innumerable blunders of this writer, may be judged by the following extract from really good authority.

"Gascoign, Esquire, of Middleton, near Leeds," says Aubrey, "was killed at the Battle of Marston Moor, about the age of 24 or 25 at most. Mr. Townley, of Townley, in Lancashire, hath his papers from Mr. Edward Hamsteed, who says he found out the way of improving telescopes before Des Cartes. Mr. Edward Hamsteed tells me, Sept., 1682, that 'twas at York fight he was slain."

Dr. Whitaker informs us that "he was the inventor of an instrument for dividing a foot in measure into parts."

Since writing the above, an article in the Gentleman's Magazine has just occurred to me which corroborates the statement of Aubrey. The writer, who signs himself "Asthrophilus," after giving an account of Mr. Horrox and Mr. Crabtree, two famous young astronomers, proceeds thus:---"Contemporary with these two illustrious youths lived William Gascoign, the inventor of the micrometer, who was slain at Marston Moor on the 2d of July, 1644, fighting for Charles the 1st, at the age of twenty-three."

On this indisputable statement I have but one reflection to offer. How melancholy the tale!---how sad the end of such a gentleman! *Alas! he died in arms against the liberties of his country.*

My history would here have terminated, but the accidental discovery of a curious article, corroborating some principal positions in it, invites me to keep in hand my pen for a few pages, and will not introduce inappropriately what was intended as an appendix. By the kindness of my most intimate friend, Mr. Swinden, of Morley, I am put in possession of the article in question, which he discovered at the house of one Joseph Wooffinden. It is a warming pan of remarkable make, and the lid of which is twelve inches and a half in diameter. Upon it is a lion rampant, having under his left paw the fleur-de-lis of France, and upon his right one the crown of England, which he is tossing up, and as it were playing with, as though it were a toy. Now, if there could possibly have been any doubt as to the person or circumstance intended, a medal of Cromwell which I possess would have decided the matter; but here we have upon the lid of the pan a motto, "In God is all our troust," and (most fortunately) the date 1650, the very year upon which nearly all the interest of my book hinges. I am credibly informed that this singular relic has descended from a family here, called Robinson, and that other natives of Morley had similar pans, or other articles with the same device, not twenty years ago.

THE KITCHINGMANS, OF CHAPEL ALLERTON.

SEE PAGE 198.

The family of the Kitchingman's, of Chapel Allerton, were of great antiquity and considerable importance; their pedigree is still preserved by their descendants up to 1340: there is no doubt that they formed a part of the Norman attendants of the Conqueror, and what is far higher praise, many of them have obtained deserved and distinguished renown as liberal benefactors to the cause of benevolence and religion. Many of them on this account will occupy a prominent place in our history of charities. Of the private character of Bryan Kitchingman, elsewhere to be mentioned, who married a neice of the celebrated John Harrison, who flourished in the reign of Charles II., and who lived in Meadow Lane, Leeds, some accounts are still preserved, which demonstrate him to have been a very extraordinary man: he was so addicted to religious contemplation, that he looked upon temporal affairs with comparative abstraction; he devoted his income to the purposes of eminent philanthropy, and the provisions of his will demonstrate the extent of his benevolence. In one part of his conduct he set an exampie highly worthy of imitation, and which we fear few in these days will be disposed to follow; he spent the greater portion of his time, in the latter part of his life, in purchasing clothing adapted for the necessities of the poor, and in seeking out worthy objects for the dispensation of his charity. He inherited, indeed, this useful and admirable virtue from his mother, the daughter of Grace Harrison, who was one of the most beneficent characters the town of Leeds ever knew. Of her a fact is recorded which will prove highly interesting to our readers. She deemed the season of affliction and mourning to be the time when the affections of the heart ought to be exercised towards others who were distressed; and acting upon this principle, when her husband was buried at Chapel Allerton, she gave away in the burial ground fifty pounds to the poor. Thomas Kitchingman, the nephew of the above-mentioned Bryan, and twice mayor of Leeds, imitated the example of his worthy relatives. Balk and Bagby, by Carleton Husthwaite, Holbeck, and Beeston, were the principal scenes of his liberality.

One circumstance is recorded of one of the Kitchingmans, which is of too interesting a character to be omitted in this history. Timothy Kitchingman, who lived in the house in Hunslet Lane lately occupied by Mr. Wilks, was, with other English gentlemen in Rome, invited to be the witness of the lawful birth of the grandson of King James II. in the very room in which the unfortunate child was brought into the world. He sold this estate to Alderman Brooke in 1756.

EXECUTIONS NEAR LEEDS IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.—SEE PAGE 183.

A horrible fact has been related to the writer relative to the execution of this Holroyd: he was not gibbetted after he had been hanged, but he was suspended from the gibbet in such a manner as long to retain life. The unhappy wretch is said to have lived nine days after his suspension; he mangled his shoulders with

his teeth in the agonies of his despair; his dreadful cries aroused the echoes of the neighbourhood, and filled the inhabitants with horror; and such was the effect produced upon the people by the circumstance, that they petitioned government that no more such exhibitions of cruelty might ever again be made. It is true that this narrative is merely traditional, but from the quarter by which it has been communicated to the author, he has no doubt that it is founded on truth.

Another disgusting exemplification of the manner in which executions were performed in this age, was afforded on Chapel Town Moor at the death of the three men who were there executed on account of their share in the Farnley Wood Plot. Three men were apprehended in the Willow Tree public house, near the old church, in Leeds. One of them was said to have been innocent of any participation in the conspiracy, and to have been only in casual intercourse with the rest. After the execution, the hearts of these men were taken from their bodies and thrown into the flames; and it is still recorded in the neighbourhood as a tradition, that the heart of the innocent man would not burn, but resisted completely the action of the fire.

ADDITIONAL ANECDOTE OF CHARLES I. IN LEEDS.

SEE PAGE 58.

When Charles I. was brought to Leeds a prisoner in the hands of the Scots, and was lodged in the Red Hall, the celebrated Harrison requested permission t present his Majesty with a tankard of excellent ale, which he brought in his hand. In this application the guards could perceive no signs of treachery, and therefore admitted him to the royal presence. When the king opened the lid of the tankard, he found, instead of the expected beverage, that the vessel was filled with gold, which he immediately contrived with great dexterity to hide about his person. It is unnecessary to add how delighted Mr. Harrison was with the success of his stratagem. This anecdote was related by Mr. Harrison's nephew, Mr. Robinson, to Mr. Thomas Nelson, in whose hand writing it was found preserved.

CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH OCCURRED IN THE FAMILY OF THE SUNDERLANDS.

In the family of the Sunderlands mentioned in our history (see p. 196), a circumstance occurred nearly two hundred years ago, so remarkable and so interesting, as to deserve a place in the addenda to our first book. We relate it as the story is preserved, and we have no doubt of its authenticity.

Samuel Sunderland, Esq., who flourished in the reign of Charles I. and in the Commonwealth, resided at Arthing Hall, not far from Bingley. He was one of the richest men of his age, and had accumulated an immense quantity of gold coin, which he preserved in bags placed on two shelves in a private part of his house. Two individuals who resided at Collingham, and who were in circumstances above want, though not above temptation, determined to rob Mr. Sunderland of the whole, or at any rate of a considerable quantity, of his gold; and in order to prevent the chance of successful pursuit, they persuaded a blacksmith at Collingham

to put shoes on their horses' feet backwards way. They arrived at Arthing Hall according to their purpose; they took away as much gold in bags as they thought they could carry off, and notwithstanding the communication of an alarm to the family before they left the house, they succeeded in accomplishing their retreat. The weight of the gold they took away was too heavy for their jaded horses, and they were compelled to leave part of it on Blackmoor, where it was afterwards found by some persons of Chapel-town, whose descendants are living at that village at the present day. It so happened, that the robbers had taken a dog with them on their expedition, and this animal, in the hurry of their retreat, they left behind them, fastened up in the place from which they had taken the gold. The friends and neighbours of Mr. Sunderland, who had determined upon pursuit, immediately saw in this dog the means of detecting the offenders. Having broken one of its legs, to prevent it running too fast for their horses, they turned it loose; it proceeded, notwithstanding its excruciating pain, to Collingham, and went directly to the house of its owners. The pursuers arrived, burst open the door, and found the thieves in the very act of counting the money. They were sent to York, tried, condemned to die, and their own apprentice was compelled to act the part of their executioner. This young man, though innocent of any capital participation in the robbery, was so horror-struck by the deed he had been compelled to perform, that he criminated himself, and followed the fate of his masters.

Mrs. Mary Midgley, wife of S. Midgley, Esq., of Moortown, and the niece of Mr. Sunderland, immediately repaired to her uncle when she heard of the robbery, and was accustomed to relate how he had taken her to see the bags of gold which were left after the robbers had completed their work.

BOOK II.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.

CHAPTER I. EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

TOGETHER with the rest of the ancient Britons, the inhabitants of this district, prior to the invasion of the Romans, and long afterwards, were devoted to the superstitious and sanguinary rites of Druidism, and were held in complete and in abject spiritual bondage by the selfish impostors who assumed the character and discharged the functions of ministers of religion. Although there is reason to believe that the seeds of Christianity were sown in Britain at a very early period—although, from a number of clear and decisive testimonies, it can be proved that the rays of the gospel had dawned upon its shores before the close of the first century*—yet it is highly probable, from the remoteness of the situation of this district from the southern and most frequented parts of the island, that the knowledge of the true religion was not communicated to its inhabitants until after, perhaps long after, its conquest by the Romans. As we must exclusively confine our attention to our own district, we shall enter into none of the controversies, and recite none of the particulars, which have excited the attention of historians relative to the gradual progress and the ultimate triumphs of Christianity in Britain. That when the Roman legionaries settled in Britain, they introduced their own modification of Paganism, as well as their arts, their manners, and their civilization, is unquestionably demonstrated by some of the inscriptions and fragments which have been discovered in different parts of the country; and it is equally certain that, at the termination of the third century, very considerable numbers of the people had been converted to the Christian faith. That the church in Britain was in a prosperous

* See a number of testimonies in Henry's Hist. vol. i. 123. Cunningham's Lives of Eminent Englishmen, i. 118.

state in the reign of Constantine the Great, may be fairly deduced from the fact, that several of its prelates were present at the first council summoned by the Emperor; and that this district was at that time evangelized, may also be collected from the occurrence of a Bishop of York being, among the rest, a constituent part of that ecclesiastical assembly. At the council of Arles, which was held in that city, A.D. 314, we find were present, not only a bishop of London, a bishop of Lincoln, and a priest and a deacon of the same city, but also Eborus, a bishop of York. It can scarcely be believed that, in these days of energy and zeal, there was an organized Christian church existing at York, without the dissemination of scriptural truth among the remotest towns and districts in its vicinity. That these bishops, even very soon after this early period, were comparatively wealthy, may be ascertained from one curious fact. Most of the bishops who were present at the council of Arminium, A.D. 351, were maintained by the liberality of the Emperor, with the exception of the prelates from Britain and France, who refused to accept the provision provided for them by the imperial bounty,* from which it is conjectured, with great reason, that the condition of the bishops in Britain must have been superior to that of their brethren in many other parts of the Roman world. From the existence then of a bishopric at York at the time of Constantine, and from the comparative affluence which the occupant of this see undoubtedly enjoyed, we are induced to believe that at, or soon after, the death of Constantine, the inhabitants of this district were almost exclusively Christian.

But after the departure of the Romans, Christianity almost disappeared. The pagan Scots and Picts, who ravaged with savage fury this part of the country, well nigh extirpated the very traces of its existence; and the few memorials which they spared were completely obliterated by the progress of the Saxon barbarians. The latter, indeed, appear to have been animated with the most violent hatred against Christianity; they murdered without exception all the clergy who were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands, and they destroyed the places of worship in every place to which they directed their desolating march. Their long and sanguinary contests with the Christian Britons, inflamed their enmity against the religion of their opponents; and their animosity was not allayed, their prejudices were

* Dupin, ii. 263. Bedal, i. c. 13

not diminished, until the opposition of the natives was rendered powerless, and their final subjugation was accomplished. Then they began to regard Christianity with a more favourable eye, and in the process of a few years vast numbers of them were induced to assume its name, without probably knowing any thing of its doctrines. With the conversion of Ethelbert, the King of Kent, with the interposition of Pope Gregory the Great, with the progress of his missionary Augustine, and with the form of ecclesiastical discipline and doctrine which that extraordinary personage attempted to establish in Britain, our history has no connexion—we must refer to those events which excited a decisive influence upon the religious character of our district.

Among those who accompanied Augustine into England was Paulinus, one of the most renowned ecclesiastics of that or any other age, who, by his abundant labours and his unbounded success, obtained and deserved the name of *the Apostle of the Northumbrians*. Paulinus appears to have been a man of heroic resolution, of indefatigable diligence, and to have possessed the power of commanding the attention of multitudes by his bold and irresistible eloquence. That his morals were blameless, is attested by the respect paid to his character, but it is exceedingly probable that he was tinctured with the gross superstitions which had already become disastrously prevalent on the continent of Europe, and which had woefully disfigured and defiled the holy simplicity of genuine Christianity. With the success of Paulinus in Lincolnshire and in other counties we have nothing to do, we confine ourselves to the object of our history.

About the year 624, Edelburga, daughter of Ethelbert, King of Kent, was married to Edwin, King of Northumberland. Being a professedly Christian princess, she had the free exercise of her religion secured to her and to her household,—and Paulinus, being consecrated a Bishop by Justus, who had shortly before been elevated to the see of Rochester, accompanied her into Northumberland. Paulinus was not only permitted to perform the sacred duties of his office in the family of the Queen, but to preach the gospel wherever he chose among the savage inhabitants of the country. For a considerable period his labours were attended with no great success, and his exhortations were treated by his hearers with disdain. King Edwin, however, whether from the influence of his Queen, or the persuasions of the bishop, or motives of policy, having, after long consideration, and many

consultations with his council, embraced the Christian religion, his example was followed by Coiffi, the high priest, and many of his nobility, and great multitudes of the common people. This event was followed by the nominal conversion of the Northumbrians. Paulinus accompanied the court, which sometimes resided in Bernicia, and sometimes in Deira, preaching and baptizing his converts in some neighbouring stream or fountain. Their numbers soon became so great, that he is said to have baptized no fewer than twelve thousand individuals, in one day, in the river Swale. There is no doubt that Dewsbury witnessed similar scenes, and that the waters of the Calder, at that place, were employed to perform the initiatory rite upon the hundreds and thousands who crowded to declare their attachment to the cause and to the name of Christianity. In order to reward these distinguished services, Edwin erected for Paulinus a bishop's see at York, and succeeded in obtaining for him from Pope Honorius an archiepiscopal pall.

Little need be said about the intrinsic value of such conversions as these. When it is recollected that these Saxons were immersed in ignorance, superstition, and barbarism—that from their habits and manners they were peculiarly unfitted to appreciate the high and the holy doctrines of Christianity—that both their feelings of loyalty and their sense of interest would induce them to follow with eagerness the example of their sovereign—that Paulinus himself, whatever might have been his abilities and his zeal, was but imperfectly acquainted with their language, and therefore perhaps unable, in many instances, to render his instructions intelligible—we have every reason to believe that the church had little reason to rejoice in these mighty accessions to her numbers, and that the conversion of the Saxons was rather the assumption of a name, and the practice of certain rites and ceremonies, than the enlightening of the understanding and the purification of the heart. As to the operation of a miraculous influence in the production of such astonishing changes, we may safely leave the supposition in the hands of those who have entertained it.

Whatever, however, may have been the real effect of the preaching of Paulinus, it is certain that Dewsbury, as the scene of his labours, was elevated to the highest ecclesiastical honour.

There can be little doubt from the fact to which we have twice alluded, that a cross formerly existed at Dewsbury, which was traditionally attributed to this celebrated apostle of

Northumbria; that Dewsbury was actually the scene of his ministrations; and that here, by the influence of his persuasions, if not by the force of his arguments, a considerable number of the Saxons were induced to assume the Christian name. Dr. Whitaker has placed this probability in a very strong point of view. He says, "It may be said, that this cross was not a fac-simile of the original stone, but of Camden's traditionary copy, (see p. 84,) and nothing was more likely than that some zealous incumbent, learning from such authority, the ancient honours of his church, might determine to repeat and perpetuate the inscription. But had no such stone existed when the late cross was framed, for the sole purpose of recording such inscription, what will account for its form—an entire Saxon wheel cross? The copy has been extant beyond the memory of man; and I could almost undertake to say, that a century ago, there was not an antiquary in the kingdom, who had observed so accurately as to have thought of copying the genuine form of such a monument without a model to work by. Nay, were even this a counterfeit, what could induce any man to be at the pains to make it, but for the purpose of recording an ancient tradition? And it would be strange indeed, that a groundless tradition should have fixed upon a church, whose origin is otherwise lost in remote antiquity, and has so many other decisive testimonies about it of Saxon antiquity."* That Paulinus preached and baptized at Dewsbury, may consequently be considered almost certain.

The parish of Dewsbury, no doubt, from the reputation the place enjoyed in consequence of the preaching of Paulinus, was one of the most extensive in England, in Saxon times. We have already stated that it comprised an area of four hundred miles; that the parishes of Almondbury, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, Bradford, Halifax, and Mirfield, were included within its boundaries; and that in fact it stretched over the whole country from the confines of Wakefield to those of Whalley. To other Saxon ecclesiastical parochial divisions we have already adverted; these however took place, there is no doubt, at an ulterior period, and at the time of which we are now speaking, Dewsbury, ecclesiastically speaking, was pre-eminent over them all.

Whatever might be the Christianity which was embraced and professed by the Northumbrians in consequence of the preaching of Paulinus, it was almost completely extirpated when the pagan

* Loid and Elm. p. 299, 300.

Penda and his Mercians defeated and killed the celebrated Edwin. After this fatal event, the apostacy of the Northumbrians became so general, and the fear of the Mercians became so influential, that even Paulinus, with all his courage, was intimidated, and found himself compelled to retire for safety into Kent, where he was appointed to succeed his former patron Justus in the bishopric of Rochester. When Justus, who had been translated to the archbishopric of Canterbury, died, he was succeeded by Honorius, who first instituted the division of parishes and the appointment of a resident clergyman to administer the ordinances in each.

The Northumbrians did not long continue under the sway of Penda and Paganism, for when Oswald had secured himself in the profession of the throne, he sent into Scotland, where he had found an asylum during his misfortunes, for Christian teachers to diffuse the knowledge of their doctrines among his heathen subjects. Several missionaries were sent in accordance with this application; and Aidan, the most eminent of them, obtained an imperishable renown by his ardour and his success. It does not appear likely, however, that the inhabitants of this district immediately realized the anticipated benefits from the labours of their missionaries of benevolence and religion; for Aidan, contrary to the regulation of Pope Gregory, who had ordered the principal see for the northern parts of Britain to be at York, fixed his episcopal station in the little island of Lindisfairn, opposite to the coast of Northumberland. He was succeeded in 652 by Finan, who like his predecessor had been a monk of Iona, and Colman, another Scottish ecclesiastic, succeeded Finan. We have no inclination, nor is it necessary, to enter into the dispute which agitated the Northumbrian church, while under the superintendence of Colman, upon the time of the celebration of Easter, and the use of the tonsure. Suffice it to observe, that under the direction of Oswy, then the king of Northumbria, a council was convoked in the nunnery of St. Hilda, at Whitby, to decide the contested points—Colman and Ceadda, bishop of the East Saxons, and Oswy himself, appeared in behalf of the Scottish party, who kept Easter according to the oriental date—and Agilfrid, bishop of Paris, James the deacon, a disciple of Paulinus, Agathon, and Wilfrid, two priests of the Romish communion, and Enfleda, Oswy's queen, contended for the usages of the Papists. The victory was gained by the latter, and the Romish customs were

imposed upon the Northumbrians. What a monstrous perversion of Christianity must have prevailed at the time, when a king and a queen, and the most distinguished ecclesiastics of a nation, assembled to dispute upon such insignificant matters as these, with as much solemnity as though the salvation of the universe depended upon the decision!

The arrival of Theodore of Tarsus in Cilicia, A.D. 669, appointed by the Pope, on the application of Oswy, king of Northumbria, and Egbert, king of Kent, to fill the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, was the commencement of the most auspicious era in the history of the Saxon church. This eminent ecclesiastic, who seems to have been sincerely devoted to the duties of his station, to have been endowed with abilities of the highest order, and to have acquired an extent of theological and general learning rarely known in those dreary ages of gradually increasing darkness, in order to facilitate the final conversion of the Saxons, and to provide for the prosperity of the church, increased the number of the bishops, and endeavoured to place in the episcopal office men of experience, knowledge, and piety. Either, under his superintendence, or that of Brithwald, his successor, three bishoprics were established in the kingdom of Northumberland, that of York, that of Lindisfairn, and that of Hexham. The residence of a bishop at York would prove especially conducive to the dissemination of Christianity in this district, and it is highly probable that between the commencement and the middle of the seventh century, those churches were erected at Leeds, at Otley, at Addle, at Whitchurch, at Morley, and some other places, which have been already pointed out, under their respective heads in our extracts from Doomsday Book.*

* Bede describes in glowing terms the success which attended the labours of these two distinguished men, and remarks, that the Saxons had never witnessed such a happy time as the period of Theodore's prelacy, from their first arrival in England. There is great reason to believe that this was not an incorrect statement. Both the archbishop and the abbot were admirably calculated for the station they occupied. Instead of being mere monks, and possessing only the learning of monks, they were reputed for their experience in secular affairs, and their power of imparting information on every branch of science. The school, consequently, which they opened was crowded with auditors. Poetry, astronomy, and arithmetic, were comprehended within the circle of their instructions. The classics both of Greece and Rome began to be read under their auspices; and the practice of composition in the ancient languages was so closely pursued, that the historian states there were many of their pupils who could write as well in Latin and Greek as in their own tongue. Bede, Eccles. Hist. iv. c. 2.

We are not, however, to suppose, from the preceding statement, that any provision in these times was made for the instruction of the inhabitants of this district, either corresponding with their numbers, however scanty, or with their gloomy state of ignorance and barbarism. To this conclusion we are conducted, not only by the immense size of the parishes, but by the testimony of the venerable Bede himself. That distinguished ecclesiastical historian, in his celebrated epistle to Archbishop Egbert on the state of religion in the north of England, in referring to the subject of tithes, which were at that time payable to the bishop of the diocese, and were strictly exacted in the remotest parts of the country, expressly declares to the metropolitan, that these parts of the country were almost utterly destitute of spiritual assistance, not from bishops only, but even from presbyters,* and he insinuates that the heads of the church not only neglected to visit in person these comparatively distant regions, but also to send out instructors from the episcopal college which was then maintained from the general fund of the diocesan tithes. That churches were erected soon after the conversion of the Northumbrians by Paulinus, is evident from one striking fact which occurred upon the very borders of our district., In Campodunum, which is often supposed to have been Almondbury, Paulinus himself had erected a place of worship, which Bede states was burnt by the Mercians after they had defeated and killed Penda. Most of, and probably all, the Saxon churches, in the first instance, were indubitably rude structures of wood; yet though the rage for building monasteries, which the venerable historian so frequently quoted, reprehends with so much justice and severity, may have prompted the Saxons to neglect the ordinary and solitary places of worship, still, in the course of time, those arts of architecture which this rude people possessed, would be exhausted in the formation and decoration of their churches, and those edifices would soon aspire to comparative elegance and importance.

From the character of Egbert, the metropolitan to whom Bede addressed his remonstrance, we may be induced to believe that steps would be taken to send among the inhabitants of this district a greater number of priests, and that the interests of the clergy would render them as alert as possible in bringing all the people under their controul. This Egbert, so celebrated both by

* Bede Ep. 302. Loid. and Elm. 298.

Alcuin and Bede, two of the greatest men of the age, was the brother of Eadbert, King of Northumberland, and by his pre-eminent merit, as well as by his royal birth, recovered the dignity of metropolitan, which had been possessed by Paulinus, the first Bishop of York, and he was invested, as a badge of his dignity, with a pall from Rome. The character of Egbert, which was applauded throughout Europe, and his high reputation for zeal in promoting the cause both of literature and religion, may lead to the conclusion, that this district, as constituting an important province of his diocese, would be materially benefitted by his liberal exertions, and by the multiplication of the number of the teachers of religion under his patronage.

Of the state of Christianity in this part of the country at this period, we cannot, however, form a very high opinion. Ignorance and superstition, under the prostituted name of religion, had very extensively increased—pilgrimages to Rome became almost incessant, and, according to the testimony of contemporaneous writers, were attended with the most demoralizing consequences—the immense number of persons of all ranks in life, who retired into monasteries, perpetrated an immense injury upon society by the subtraction of their exertions and influence from its general engagements and welfare—the multiplication of holidays and trifling ceremonies was equally detrimental to honest industry and rational religion—the clergy became devoted to their own interests, they practised the most nefarious impostures upon the credulous people, and sought their own aggrandisement at the expense of all the laws of justice and humanity—and the custom of appealing to Rome, and of applying to the anti-christian court in that city, for the ratification of ecclesiastical dignities and claims, materially assisted the progress of papal usurpations, and the establishment of the papal power. It is a melancholy fact, that from the time of the first conversion of the Saxons, the Christianity they professed became more and more adulterated, until it was finally degraded into a mass of senseless ceremonies and unintelligible jargon.

The invasions and ravages of the Danes in this and in every other district in the kingdom, were in one sense extremely prejudicial to the cause of professed Christianity, and involved the clergy of every rank in one indiscriminate ruin. The Danes were pagans as well as barbarians, and they never failed to plunder the monasteries, which they generally found to afford a more plentiful

harvest, both of booty and of provisions, than any other places—they compelled a whole host of the monks to abandon the luxurious indolence of the monastic life—a great many of the clergy were put to the sword, and the mildest fate which any of them who fell into the hands of the invaders could expect, was to be sold for slaves. It has been very justly observed, however, that the dispersion of the Saxon clergy from their monasteries by the Danes, was rather subservient than otherwise to the general instruction of the people. The destruction of the monasteries, and the retirement of their ecclesiastical inmates into country villages, where they performed the functions of their office to the people in the neighbourhood, became the occasion of the erection of many parish churches, of which there had previously been very few in England before his time. There is no doubt that in this respect a beneficial result was effected by the agency of the Danish ravages, but it was more than counteracted by the anarchy and demoralization which always follow in the train of hostile invasion. There can, indeed, be little doubt but that, since this district was retained and almost peopled by the Danes, paganism again became the dominant religion of the people, nor did the nominal conversion of the principal leaders of these ferocious barbarians in the reign of Alfred, produce any material effect upon the great body of their followers. About the commencement of the tenth century, however, in the reign of Edward the Elder, a considerable number of them professed the Christian faith, although, as they did this under the influence of terror and of the sword, no great importance is to be attached to the asserted fact of their conversion.

A curious circumstance is recorded in the ecclesiastical history of this part of the country in this century, which we shall relate, as it shews the vast importance which was attached at this period to the minute performance of certain rites and ordinances of worship. A council was held at York in the middle of the century, in which were determined the fines to be paid by the clergy for particular violations of the canons of the church. It was decreed, "If a priest celebrate mass in an unhallowed house, let him pay twelve oras*—if a priest celebrate mass upon an unhallowed altar, let him pay twelve oras—if a priest consecrate the

* An ora was a Danish ounce of silver, and hence it appears, when the great scarcity of this precious metal in those times is considered, that the fines were particularly severe.

sacramental wine in a wooden chalice, let him pay twelve oras—if a priest celebrate mass without wine, let him pay twelve oras."* It would appear from the tenor of this ordinance, that infinite moment was attached to the external forms and institutions of religion, while, in all probability, the doctrines of Christianity were little known, and its spirit was seldom exemplified—and it would also appear, that since these exorbitant fines were to be paid to the bishop, the higher orders of the ecclesiastics were in the habit of gratifying their avaricious propensities at the expense of the inferior classes of the clergy.

We have little further to record of the ecclesiastical history of the Saxons in the district which is now immediately under review. There is reason to believe, that in Northumbria, which was always more replete with Danish population and prejudice than any other part of the kingdom, heathen superstitions were mixed up with what was called Christianity, to a most astonishing degree; and it is exceedingly probable that one, at any rate, of the celebrated canons of King Edgar, was particularly directed to the state of the people in this and in other provinces of the north of England. Some of these canons we shall now present to our readers, as they will strikingly illustrate the dreadful state of ignorance, superstition, and spiritual bondage, to which the English people were reduced at this gloomy period of ecclesiastical despotism. By the eleventh of these canons, every priest was commanded to learn and to practice some mechanical trade, and to teach it to all his apprentices for the priesthood; hence it would seem that laziness, as well as ignorance, had already become one of the crying sins of the priesthood. By the sixteenth canon, the clergy were commanded to use the most diligent exertions to induce the people to abandon the worship of trees, of stones, and of fountains, and other pagan rites which are specifically described. Here, in referring to fountains, there is an indubitable reference to the practice of well-worship, which, we have already seen, prevailed in the district seven hundred years afterwards—at any rate, here is demonstration of the fact, that almost a thousand years after the Christian era, a large proportion of the inhabitants of England were still addicted to heathenism. The fifty-fourth canon we shall repeat, because it will render any further description of that wretched prostitution of Christianity which prevailed at the period absolutely unnecessary. By this institute, the

* Johnson's Canons, 1. A.D. 950. Henry's Hist. ii. 189.

clergy were commanded to exhort the people to pay their dues to the church most punctually—their plough alms, fifteen nights after Easter—their tithes of young animals at Pentecost—their tithes of corn at All-Saints—their Peter-pence at Lammas—and their church-scot at Martinmas. Unhappy must have been the condition of the people in these miserable times of degradation—these Saxon clergy must have been in the habit of fleecing their flocks with a vengeance—no wonder that, with all these dues and payments, the tithe barn, the church, and the parsonage were always connected—these were among the halcyon days of avaricious ecclesiastics; these were the days of the profound and unmitigated depravation of the people. What can give a more melancholy picture of the perfect distortion of the holy religion of the gospel to the worst of all possible purposes, than that which is afforded by the execrable canons of King Edgar?*

From this period, superstition made rapid progress throughout England, and therefore throughout our district—the power of the Pope became more firmly established—the celibacy of the clergy was an ordinance universally observed,—after long dispute and opposition, monasteries were founded in every part of the country, filled with men who contributed nothing to the happiness, to the security, and even to the religion of the kingdom—and when William the Norman ascended the throne, he found the people quite as enslaved by an ignorant and domineering priesthood, as in any region on the continent which acknowledged the papal sway. The following summary of the state of ecclesiastical affairs in England at the close of the Saxon rule, written by one of the best of our historians, whose great work is now almost obsolete, is so descriptive, and is so truly applicable to the purpose of our history, that we shall extract it for the benefit of our readers.

"Of the prevalence of ignorance and superstition in England in the eleventh century, the frequency of pilgrimages to Rome—the prodigious sums expended in the purchase of relics—the immense wealth and pernicious immunities of the clergy, to mention no others, are sufficient evidences. In this period the roads between England and Rome were so crowded with pilgrims, that the very tolls which they paid were objects of importance to the princes through whose territories they passed; and very few Englishmen imagined they could get to heaven without paying

*Spelm. Con. i. 443—478. Henry, ii. 196. Angl. Sac. ii. 114.

this compliment to St. Peter, who kept the keys of the celestial regions. The Pope and the Roman clergy, carried on a very lucrative traffic in relics, of which they never wanted inexhaustible stores. Kings, princes, and wealthy prelates, purchased pieces of the cross or whole legs and arms of apostles, while others were obliged to be content with the toes and fingers of inferior saints. Agelnoth, archbishop of Canterbury, when he was at Rome, A. D. 1021, purchased from the Pope an arm of St. Augustine, bishop of Hippo, for one hundred talents, or six thousand pounds weight of silver, and one talent, or sixty pounds weight of gold—a prodigious sum! which may enable us to form some idea of the unconscionable knavery of the sellers, and the astonishing folly and superstition of the purchasers of those commodities. The building, endowing and adorning of monasteries, had been carried on with such mad profession for about one hundred and fifty years, that a great part of the wealth of England had been expended on these structures, or lay buried in their ornaments and utensils. The masses of gold and silver (says William of Malmsbury) which Queen Emma, with a holy prodigality, bestowed upon the monasteries of Winchester, astonished the minds of strangers, while the splendour of the precious stones dazzled their eyes. In this period, the number both of the secular and regular clergy increased very much, and their possessions still more. By the frequent and extravagant grants of land bestowed on cathedrals, monasteries, and churches, from the beginning of the tenth to the the middle of the eleventh centuries, we have good reason to believe, that at the death of Edward the Confessor, more than one third of all the lands of England were in the possession of the clergy, exempted from all taxes, and for the most part even from military services. When we reflect upon these circumstances, we cannot be very much surprised that the people of England in this period, were so cruelly insulted by the Danes, and at the end of it, so easily conquered by the Normans."*

Such was the wretched condition of ecclesiastical affairs among the Saxons prior to the arrival of the Normans. To the question, did any Saxon monasteries exist in this district?—we cannot give any definite reply. We have seen that there were several Saxon churches, but there are no traces of any Saxon monasteries. The silence of Doomsday Book upon the subject proves nothing; since that compilation only describes the state of the country as it

* Henry, Hist. Eng. ii. 210, 211.

existed at the precise period of its composition—monasteries might have been destroyed amidst that general desolation which followed the arrival of the Conqueror in Yorkshire, and on account of their subversion none of them may have been mentioned. There is one circumstance however, which appears to be almost decisive of the non-existence of Saxon monasteries for a long period anterior to the Conquest. The Danes, in their incursions, destroyed all the religious houses that came in their way; they permanently settled in this part of the country and intermarried with the inhabitants; their pagan superstitions continued unabated for a considerable period after they became domiciliated; and their prejudices remaining in full force and influence, it is exceedingly unlikely that they would either rear themselves, or suffer others to rear, religious houses of the description to which we are now alluding. And even after their nominal conversion to Christianity, or rather to the superstition which bore the name of Christianity, it is not very likely that they would be particularly zealous in founding and endowing ecclesiastical establishments, against which they must have entertained a rooted prejudice. For these reasons our conviction is, that within the limits of our district, no monasteries existed from the time of the invasion of the Danes to the time of the Norman conquest.

In the preceding sketch of Saxon ecclesiastical history, we have purposely confined ourselves within our prescribed limits; we leave the Dunstans and other pseudo-saints to themselves, and we have gone into none of those disgusting particulars which we might have enumerated to our readers. The sum of the whole is, that the Saxon ecclesiastical history is nothing but the record of perpetually advancing superstition—superstition promulgated even by Paulinus and the other associates of Augustine—superstition incessantly increasing with the lapse of centuries—superstition deepened by the amalgamation of pagan rites with Christian observances—superstition at length fully establishing its disastrous power, and reducing both the clergy, the thanes, and the serfs, into the humiliating condition of its devoted slaves.

CHAPTER II.

PAPAL ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE invasion and conquest of England by the Normans, formed a new era in its ecclesiastical history. The ferocious and ignorant barons, who, after that great event, erected their castles and established their families in every part of the country, were, generally speaking, devoted sons of the church—believing that the most atrocious crimes could be atoned for by the erection of churches and the foundation and liberal endowment of religious houses, they distinguished themselves by the building of ecclesiastical and monastic edifices in every part of the kingdom—under their auspices, the power of superstition was more firmly established—the dominion of the Pope and his emissaries was finally and universally acknowledged—the clergy were permitted to extend their already overgrown wealth, and to usurp an unbounded dominion—and, as we shall presently see, an immense proportion of the landed property of the country, and of this district in particular, soon passed into their hands. We shall here first of all give some account of the religious houses which they founded in this district, and then present some miscellaneous particulars which belong to their ecclesiastical history. The only two houses in this district of the character we have alluded to, were Arthington and Kirkstall, but as both Esholt and Kirkless are just on its borders, we shall in this instance pass over the line of demarcation, and give a brief description of each of those establishments.

FOR THE NUNNERY AT ARTHINGTON a very few words will be sufficient, as the establishment never arrived at great importance nor was possessed of extensive affluence. It was founded in the middle of the twelfth century by Piers de Ardyngton, for Cluniac* nuns. This devotee, who, like many of his

* When the reputation and discipline of the Benedictine order of ecclesiastics, established in the eighth century, had declined, and it was requisite that a reforma-

family, was actuated by a mad propensity to alienate his possessions and to impoverish his descendants by his magnificent donations to lazy, voluptuous, and worthless ecclesiastics, gave the site of the nunnery, and Serlo his son greatly augmented its demesnes. The celebrated Alice de Roncille, foundress of Bolton Abbey, was one of its principal benefactors—we have already related the singular manner in which she was rewarded for her munificence (see p. 253). The nuns at Arthington appear to have experienced few changes, to have proceeded in one even tenor without any great additions to or subtractions from their possessions, to have dragged along the leaden monotony of their existence without any thing to relieve its tedium—to have walked their grounds and played their cards* without molestation, and to have run the usual round of ecclesiastical uselessness, and perhaps ecclesiastical licentiousness, without any remarkable event to be recorded in their annals. In the reign of Henry VI., three hundred years after the foundation of their house, they were thrown into the greatest perplexity by the litigousness, or rather by the good sense and proper feeling of John Arthington, who claimed the most valuable part of their possessions, and excited their fears for the loss of the whole. The knotty point was decided by the arbitation of John Thwaites of Denton, one of the most eminent Yorkshire lawyers of the age, and the "diverse controversies" were terminated in favour of the nuns.† The nunnery was surrendered November 26, 1540, by Elizabeth Hall, the last prioress, and nine nuns; it was valued at £11 18s. 4d., and the site was

tion of the whole should be effected, a separate order was established, derived indeed immediately from the stock of St. Benedict, yet claiming, as it were, a specific distinction and character—it was the order of Cluni. It was founded about the year 909, in the district of Maçon, in Burgundy, by William, duke of Aquitaine; but the praise of perfecting it is rather due to the abbot, St. Odo. It commenced, as usual, by a strict imitation of ancient excellence, a rigid profession of poverty, of industry, and of piety; and it declined, according to the usual course of human institutions, through wealth, into indolence and luxury. In the space of about two centuries it fell into obscurity; and after the name of Peter the Venerable, (the contemporary of St. Bernard), no eminent ecclesiastic is mentioned as having issued from its discipline. Besides the riches, which had rewarded and spoiled its original purity, another cause is mentioned as having contributed to its decline—the corruption of the simple rule of St. Benedict, by the multiplication of vocal prayers, and the substitution of new offices and ceremonies for the manual labour of former days. Hist. of Monachism, 380.

* See page 253.

† Mon. Ang. i. 690, &c.

granted to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury. Like all the religious houses in this country, the nunnery of Arthington stood in a delightfully sequestered and sheltered situation in the beautiful valley of the Wharf. Every vestige of the building has long since disappeared.

THE NUNNERY OF ESHOLT was situated in the valley of the Aire about five miles to the north of Bradford, and the nature of the site may be ascertained by the meaning of the word, which signifies "The Ashwood." It was founded about the same time with the nunnery of Arthington, in the middle of the twelfth century, by Simon de Ward, of the Wards of Guiseley—a family which imitated the Arthingtons in the insane perfusion with which they alienated their patrimonial possessions, from mistaken views of piety, in favour of the church. The nunnery was dedicated to God, to St. Mary, and St. Leonard. Several charters are still in existence by which lands were granted in different parts of the neighbourhood to this establishment; its possessions in Idle, in Calverley, in Baildon, in Yeadon, and in most of the surrounding townships were considerable, and the estate in the immediate neighbourhood of the house was very valuable. The charters in question we cannot insert; they would occupy more of our space than we can spare, without materially adding to the information of our readers. Besides the estates in the vicinity of the house, the nuns were possessed of the advowson of the church of Belton in the isle of Axholme, which was bestowed upon them by Margaret Clifford, and for which a license was obtained in the second year of the reign of Richard II. The names of some of the princesses of the house have been preserved, and the list we shall insert as an interesting relic of times long since passed away.

DATES.	PERSONS.
8. Id. Dec. 1330.	Julean de Wodehal, a nun of the house.
	Joan de Harthington.
11, Cal. Oct. 1315.	Isabel de Calverley, a nun of the house.
26, July ..... 1353.	
19, Aug. .... 1475.	Elizabeth Lazingby.
1480.	Joan Ward.
Pemelt. Aug. 1497.	Elizabeth Lazingby, a nun of the house.
Nov. 12. .... 1505.	Agnes Firth, a nun of the house.
Nov. 4, ... 1507.	Margaret Roche.
14, March .. 1510.	Elizabeth Pudsey.

When the smaller houses were desolved, Esholt was valued according to Dugdale, at £19 0s. 8d., or according to Speed at £13 5s. 4d. But the estates now produce upwards £2500 per annum. Since the establishment at Esholt consisted of only six nuns, the endowments must be regarded as very considerable. The fragments of the nunnery are very insignificant, a few pointed arches in some of the offices alone remaining to attest its existence; numerous bones have been dug up where the church once stood; and a singular inscription yet remains, which appears to have belonged to the tomb of Elizabeth Pudsey, the last prioress. The site of this nunnery remained in the possession of the crown, until the first year of Edward VI., when it was bestowed upon Henry Thompson Esq., then one of the kings officers at Boulogne, it afterwards belonged to the Calverleys, and then to the Stansfields of Bradford. The situation and neighbourhood of Esholt are among the most delightful in the county, and the scenery is unexpressibly beautiful.

THE NUNNERY AT KIRKLEES was founded in the reign of Henry II., by Regner de Heming, for nuns of the Cistercian order.* In the charter of foundation the place is named Kuthales and Kuthelaya, but in a subsequent confirmation of the charter by Earl Warren, the name is changed to Kirkeleya. It is conjectured by Dr. Whitaker, although in a very random and unsatisfactory manner, that Kuthalay was the original name of the place, but being insignificant, the nuns thought proper to change it to one of similar sound, but expressive of the subsequent destination of the place; and the doctor adduces in confirmation of his opinion the fact, that Kirkstall itself was so denominated, and for the same reason, some time after the foundation of the abbey. The nuns

* The Cistercian order was founded in 1098, and very soon received the pontifical confirmation. In its origin it successfully contrasted its laborious poverty and much show of Christian humility with the lordly opulence of Cluni; and in its progress, it pursued its predecessor through the accustomed circle of austerity, wealth, and corruption. This Institution was peculiarly favoured from its very foundation; since it possessed, among its earliest treasures, the virtues and celebrity of St. Bernard, one of the first of the Cistercian monks. That venerated ecclesiastic established, in 1115, the dependent abbey of Clairvaux, over which he long presided; and such was his success in propagating the Cistercian order, that he has sometimes been erroneously considered as its founder. The zeal of his pupils, aided by the authority of his fame, completed the work transmitted to them; and with so much eagerness were the monasteries of the Citeaux filled and endowed, that, before the year 1250, that order yielded nothing, in the number and importance of its dependencies, to its rival of Cluni. History of Monachism, 380—381.

of Kirklees possessed a considerable estate in Liversedge, Hartshead, and Mirfield, and the rectory of Mirfield belonged to them. Although only one fragment of the house remains among the numerous buildings of the farm yard around it, yet the dimensions of the building can be ascertained with tolerable accuracy, and prove it to have been of considerable extent. Joan Keps the last prioress resigned her charge Nov. 4, 1540, and the house according to Dugdale was valued at the dissolution at £19 8s. 1d. The prioress retired to Mirfield, where she had a pension of two pounds per annum, and a pension of £1 13s. 4d. Each was paid to the following surviving nuns, Isabel Hopton, Agnes Brooke, Isabel Rooles, and Isabel Satterstal. The site and demesnes of the house after the dissolution were granted to the Ramsden's; in the first year of Elizabeth they were the property of Robert Pilkinton; and in the eighth of the same reign they were obtained by John Armitage, in whose family they have continued to the present day. Of this place Dr. Whitaker says, "In the situation of Kirklees nunnery, it is impossible for a practised eye not to discover that peculiar system which prevailed throughout the north of England, in the choice of sites for the erection of religious houses. In a warm and fertile bottom, on the verge of a deep brook to the south, and on an elevation just sufficient to protect the house from inundations, stood this celebrated, though not wealthy foundation, of which the outlines alone can now be traced. Yet these outlines, diligently pursued, prove it to have been of great extent. A square depression in the ground distinctly markes the cloister court, nearly thirty yards square. North of this, was the body of the church, and eighteen yards or thereabouts to the east, are the tombs of Elizabeth de Stainton, and another, protected by iron rails, immediately eastward from which the choir has evidently terminated. The nave, transept, and choir, must have been at least one hundred and fifty feet long. From an engraving of this house, as it appeared about the year 1670, it seems that a large gateway with corner turrets, was then standing. One fragment, and one only of the offices of the house, remains among the buildings of a large farm yard, which the Armitage family have erected upon the spot. I mention it for one circumstance, very peculiar in a monastic building of this country, that it is of timber. The noble beeches which overshadow the tombs, the groups of deer that repose beneath, and the deep silence which is only interrupted by the notes of

wild, or the cries of domestic birds, all contribute to excite very pleasing sensations."*

KIRKSTALL ABBEY is indubitably the most interesting, and in some respects the most important object in this district, and on this account we shall occupy with its history a considerably larger space than has been usually devoted to similar objects in this work.

The foundation of this celebrated abbey is to be ascribed to Henry de Lacy, the grandson of that Ilbert de Lacy who has so frequently been mentioned in the preceeding pages, and of whom all the notices have been given which have escaped oblivion. Ilbert was succeeded by his son Robert, who to the one hundred and fifty manors in Yorkshire, the ten in Nottinghamshire, and the four in Lincolnshire, added the Lordship of Blackburnshire, in the county of Lancaster. Henry was the younger son of this Robert, and succeeded to the immense estates of his family upon the death of his brother Ilbert. This great nobleman, being afflicted with a dangerous disease, and being tormented in the apparent approach of death with the consciousness of his crimes, vowed in his extremity, according to the superstitious custom of the times, that if his life were spared, he would erect an abbey for the Cistertian monks in honour of the virgin Mary. When he recovered, he sent for the abbot of Fountaynes, described to him the nature of his vow, and assigned by charter the village of Bernoldswick and its appendages for the fulfilment of his vow. A deputation of monks from Fountaynes soon proceeded to Bernoldswick to establish the proposed monastery; they were met by Henry de Lacy himself, who pointed out the boundaries of the territories he had assigned for the use of the fathers; Murdac, archbishop of York, confirmed the grant which the powerful proprietor had made; and in 1147, Alexander, the brother of the abbot of Fountaynes, with twelve monks and ten lay brethren repaired to Bernoldswick to commence the intended ecclesiastical settlement, the name of which they changed to Mount St. Mary. To describe at length the causes which produced the failure of the new establishment at Bernoldswick; the unjust conduct of the Monks to the inhabitants; the ravages of the Scots, who carried off the goods and provisions of the brotherhood; the rains which destroyed their crops, and the inclemency of the seasons which reduced

* Loidis and Elmete, 307.

them to the verge of starvation—is unnecessary to the purposes of the present narrative; it is sufficient to state, that the monks soon found themselves under the necessity of quitting their new place of residence. It happened that Alexander, on account of some business connected with his house, was under the necessity of travelling through Airedale—he discovered on his journey a delightful retreat, embowered in woods, refreshed by the beautiful stream of the river, and inhabited by a fraternity of poor and laborious hermits. The story connected with this discovery is too admirable an example of the flagrant impostures and falsifications of the times, to be ommitted in our narrative. When Alexander inquired of the hermits the origin of their fraternity, and the reason which had induced them to take up their abode in that rural and perfect seclusion, Seleth their chief, immediately answered that he was a native of the south of England, but that he had heard a voice in his sleep saying to him, "Arise Seleth; go into the province of York; seek for the valley called Airedale, and the place which is called Kirkstall, there shalt thou provide an habitation for me and for my son." When he inquired who it was who thus addressed him, the voice replied, "I am Mary, and my son is Jesus of Nazareth." Seleth then stated that in obedience to this irresistible mandate, he had left his kindred and his home, that after a tedious search and encountering many privations, he ascertained from the neighbouring shepherds that the place was called Kirkstall,* and that after having remained in his solitude alone, feeding upon roots and herbs, he was joined by his associates, who put themselves under his government, who lived with him according to the rules of the brethren of Lerah, having all things in common and gaining their bread by the sweat of their brow. Alexander, who had made up his mind that this lovely spot should be the site of his monastery, administered an admonition to the hermits, and informed them that being all laymen without a priest, they were like sheep without a shepherd, and were under the necessity of immediately adopting some new and better form of religious government. He then hastened to his patron, represented to him the unfortunate condition of the settlement at Bernoldswick, described the eligible situation he

* These monks must have been bungling as well as odious forgers, fools as well as knaves, for Kirkstall was a name unknown until after the foundation of the Abbey which in the first instance, was called the Abbey of Hedinlcia or Headingley, the township in which it stands.

had recently discovered, procured his consent for the immediate removal of the monks, and obtained his application to William Pictavensis, the lord of the soil, for the grant of the place which was afterwards designated Kirkstall. The hermits were soon disposed of, the habitations of some of them were purchased, and the rest without any difficulty were persuaded to become monks.

Henry de Lacy acted in this affair with so much promptitude and zeal, that he sought a personal interview with William Pictavensis, with whom he had previously been at variance; and that nobleman granted to the monks of St. Mary in perpetuity, and at an annual rent of five marks, the whole of the ground in question with the adjoining woods and the use of the water.

The arrangements for the removal were soon made, a temporary church and other necessary buildings were immediately erected, and in the year 1153 Alexander and his companions removed to their new residence from Bernoldswick, which was changed into a farming establishment for their use. The name of the place was changed into Kirkstall; an adequate space of ground was rapidly cleared for the erection of the abbey; the lands on the south side of the river to the summit of the hill, were obtained from William de Rameville; Henry de Lacy abundantly supplied the necessities of the monks, and they were soon in a condition to commence the erection of their edifice. For this purpose they used the free and grit-stone which they found upon the spot, and which possessed the excellent quality of extreme durability; and the church, the two dormitories, the refectory, the cloisters, the chapter house, and all the requisite offices were at length completed. Having thus acheived the object of his most anxious wishes and of his most zealous labours, having arranged the external affairs and the internal discipline of his ecclesiastical establishment, having obtained immense accessions to its estates, and having seen it rise, even at this early period of its existence, to a high elevation of honour and affluence, the celebrated Abbot Alexander died, after having presided over the monastery for the long period of thirty five years.

Having already described the origin and the character of the Cistercian monks, (see p. 386,) we shall proceed to narrate what particulars in the history of this renowned Abbey are worthy of insertion in this work, and then we shall offer some observations on its dimensions, its architecture, and its present state.

Henry de Lacy died towards the close of Henry the second's

reign, and it is stated by the historian of Pontefract, that his remains were interred in the cemetery at Kirkstall. Prior to his death, he bestowed upon his favourite monks several tokens of his regard, only two of which shall be mentioned as illustrative of the manners of the times. He granted them half a mark of silver out of his estate at Clitheroe, to furnish a lamp to burn night and day before the great altar in the Abbey church; and from the same estate he granted them a mark of silver annually, to supply the Abbot with robes suitable to the dignity of his office, and the importance of his functions.

The monks also obtained, what in those days of gross and abject superstition was of far greater consequence to them than either the patronage of barons, or the favour of princes—for Pope Adrian, in the second year of his Pontificate, 1156, confirmed to the Abbot and his brethren all the grants they had received from the three noblemen already mentioned, and from other benefactors; he ratified the arrangments they had made, especially with reference to tithes; he bestowed upon them some peculiar privileges and exemptions; and he demonstrated that they were under his special protection by pronouncing formal denunciations upon all who might molest them in the enjoyment of their estates.

The second Abbot of Kirkstall was Ralph Hageth, who had been a resident in Fountaynes Abbey, and he seems to have had a high reputation for sincerity, scanctity, and attachment to the interests of his order. Robert de Lacy, the son and successor of Henry, displayed the same munificence to Ralph, that his father had done to Alexander. He bestowed upon the monks several extensive tracts at Roundhay, near Leeds, and the whole of Acrington with its park or wood in the parish of Whalley, in Lancashire. The Abbacy of Ralph, however, was clouded with misfortune, the monks had become possessed of the grange of Micklethwaite, which formed the most valuable appendage of their abbey, —it had previously been part of the fee of Roger de Mowbray— this baron, in one of the numerous feuds which agitated the country at this period, had espoused a party which was hostile to the king—Henry II. seized his fee, expelled the monks, and gave Micklethwaite, as we have already related, with Collingham and Bardsey to Ada Brus, in exchange for the castle of Danby. The monks were greatly incensed against their Abbot, whom they accused of being the cause of this heavy loss, and who by his want of order and his extravagance, had reduced the affairs of the

establishment to the brink of ruin. So great was the distress of the monks that they dispersed themselves among the neighbouring monasteries, with the view of working upon the compassion of the King. They might, however, have spared themselves the trouble of their dishonourable expedient, for the King continued immoveable, and the fraternity were compelled to return to their abbey, and to devise fresh measures for the restoration of their affairs. When Ralph was translated to the presidency of Fountaynes, he was succeed by Lambert, under whose administration something like prosperity again visited the inmates of the abbey. But an event soon took place, which aroused the most profound alarm of the monks, and which as it illustrates one part of the usual policy they observed in the administration of their affairs, demands a distant repetition. The reflections and the application of the anonymous author of a most excellent and elaborate history of Kirkstall abbey, published in Leeds* about six years ago, are so much to the purpose, that we shall abridge them for the benefit of our readers.

"A certain knight, called Richard de Eland, claimed from the monastery the Grange of Clivacher as his property. It is supposed that the plea of De Eland, was grounded upon a suggestion that this part of Clivacher was within his manor of Rochdale, to which it lay contiguous, and which in times when the boundaries of lands were so extremely lax and ill defined, he might found upon some colour of reason. On inquiry the Abbot discovered the claim to be well founded, but still avoided its recognition and secured compensation for the loss of the place, by resigning it into the hands of Roger de Lacy, from whom it had been shortly before received. The latter in consequence bestowed the village and park of Akarington upon the monks, as already mentioned, to make good his former gift. Lambert, following the habitual practice of his holy brethren, immediately upon obtaining possession, banished the inhabitants from their ancient abodes and possessions, and converted the whole into a grange for the use of the monastery, under the superintendence of some of the lay brothers of the establishment.—It has frequently been remarked that the invention of gun-powder and several other wholesale and expeditious modes of human destruction, is ascribable to the knowledge and ingenuity of monks. Among the number of cruel-

* An Historical, Antiquarian, and Picturesque Account of Kirkstall Abbey. London, Longman & Co.—Leeds, Robinson & Hernaman, 1 vol. 12mo.

ties which may be traced to the same origin, the practice just referred to deserved a conspicuous place. So early as the twelfth century, the removal of all indigenous inhabitants from the estates bestowed on the church, in order to secure a larger surplus for the gratification of monastic luxury, was enforced with an unswerving callousness worthy of a political economist. But even then the spirit of Englishmen would not tamely brook such treatment. In the instance which has occasioned this digression, we are informed, by the pious historian of Kirkstall Abbey, that some "wicked neighbouring inhabitants, whose predecessors had formerly been possessed of Akarington, by the instigation of the devil, burnt the grange with all its furniture, and cruelly murdered three lay brothers, viz., Norman, Umfridus, and Robert, who managed the farm."...The abbot, it is said, awed by this untoward accident, recommended the souls of the deceased to God, and committed their bodies to the grave. He then repaired to Robert de Lacy, his patron, and related to him the misfortune, with a suitable accompaniment of tears. De Lacy waxed wroth on hearing of the great presumption evinced by the people against their usurpers, and not only banished the malefactors who were guilty of the firing and murder, but also their relations. These proceedings soon brought the unfortunate sufferers to their senses, when they fell at the Abbot's feet, and, by permission of De Lacy, made satisfaction to God and the brethren for so enormous a sin; they also swore to abjure the above grange for themselves and their successors, resigning to God and the monks all right they had therein, and giving money over and above for the damage they had done.....Peace was accordingly ratified between the oppressors and the oppressed, and the Abbot rebuilt with confidence the grange which had been destroyed, as well as repaired the other injuries which had been sustained at Akarington by the late disturbances." These events occurred about the year 1192.

Upon the death of Lambert, Turgesius succeeded as Abbot of Kirkstall: he appears to have been a nervous and contemplative man, far more celebrated for a certain sort of reputed sanctity, than for the qualifications which were demanded by the important and responsible station to which he was elevated. We shall make two extracts from the singular account of this abbot given by his companion and historian. "Turgesius was an abbot of holy memory, a man of singular abstinence, and a most severe

chastiser of his body, being always clothed in sackcloth, to suppress the unlawful motions of the flesh by harsh clothing, carrying in his mind those words of the gospel, 'They that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.' His garment at all times was but one cowl and one tunic, without any addition; he had no more in winter and no less in summer. Thus he yielded to neither season, so that you would neither think him to be chilled with the cold, nor inflamed with the heat....In winter he stood at the night watches, when we, having double garments on, were almost frozen stiff, as if he felt no uneasiness; and we say that he repelled the cold of the season with the ardour of the inward man....He was frequently weeping, and in compunction—when discoursing, he seldom refrained from tears; never at the office of the altar without devotion, never said mass without tears, whereof he shed so great a flood, that he did not seem to weep, but to rain down tears, insomuch that the sacerdotal vestments he wore could scarce be used by any other.*"

The affairs of the abbey, under the superintendence of this lacrymose superior, gradually declined into great disorder; it became evident to the monks, that abstinence, and the power of shedding torrents of tears, were not the only qualifications which were demanded by the duties of their head, and they therefore chose, as the successor of Turgesius, Helias, who had been a monk at Roche, who seems to have been a man of business, and to have laboured with considerable perseverance to restore the former prosperity and opulence of the community. Although Helias had some difficulty, after his accession to the abbacy, to manage the temper of Roger de Lacy, the grand-nephew of Robert already mentioned, he succeeded in conciliating the regard of that sanguinary and formidable baron, and obtained from him numerous favours for the community; he took from King John the grange of Micklethwaite, and the manors of Collingham and Bardsey, to farm as a fee at the king's hand, paying yearly four-score and ten pounds—he added the soc of Addle, the town of Allerton, with some other places, to the estates of the abbey—but at the same time, by the violence of King John, it was deprived of the grange of Heton and the land of Thorpe. For a century after the death of Helias, nothing can be recorded of the establishment at Kirkstall except the names of the abbots. They were, Ralph of Newcastle, who succeeded Helias, and died in the

* Hist. Kirks. Abb. p. 83, 84.

reign of Henry III., on the ninth of the ides of April. Walter was the next abbot in the same reign, and died on the second of the ides of October. Maurice followed in 1222, and died in 1249, in the same reign. Adam succeeded Maurice on Friday se'nnight after Easter the same year. Hugh Mikelay was inducted on the 17th of the kalends of April, 1259, and died on the kalends of June, 1262, also in the reign of Henry III. Simon, his successor, was created the 15th of the kalends of June in the same year, and died on the 13th of the kalends of March, 1269, and in the 53d of Henry III. He was succeeded by William de Leedes on the 2d of the nones of March, being then a Thursday, the same year, and was Abbot till the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary, in 1275. After him came Gilbert de Cortles, who was created on the morrow after the Assumption of the blessed Mary, and was abbot three years, one month, and four days, when he either resigned or was deposed. He was, however, created abbot a second time, and held the office until the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 1280. Then Henry Carr was chosen, and after him Hugh Grimston, in 1284.

When the last-named abbot was elected, the religious foundation at Kirkstall was in such a state of deplorable embarrassment, that it was absolutely necessary to take some decisive steps to save it from utter ruin. The revenues of the monks were exhausted by interest upon debts, and the live stock on the lands, by a strange improvidence, had been nearly consumed to supply the every day wants of the fraternity. Of this condition, the following account is given; the particulars were taken on the day of St. Lambert, Bishop and martyr, 1232. "Imprimis, draught oxen, 16; cows, 84; yearling and young bullocks, 16; asses, 21; sheep, none. The debts which are certainly due, by recognizance made before the Baron of Exchequer, £4402 12s. 7d. Besides the writings laying in custody of the society, of James de Fistolis, of 500 marks; besides one writing, in the hands of the Abbot of Fountains and of the Abbot Henry, of 50 marks; besides 59 sacks of wool and 9 marks, due to Bernard Talde; and besides the acquittances in the hands of John Sacklden, for 340 marks. In testimony thereof, we, the brothers, and Henry, called Abbot of Fountains, have affixed our seal to these presents." The debts, therefore, of the Abbey, besides 59 sacks of wool, amounted to £5248 15s. 7d.—a very large sum for those days. The creditors demanding the payment of their debts, the monks were under the necessity of soliciting, through their patron,

Henry de Lacy, the last and the greatest of his name, the interposition of the king (Edward I.), to save the monastery from destruction by suspending the claims upon the house. The letter of the abbot Grimston, which describes the manner in which the abbey was extricated from its embarrassments, will be found in the note.*

* Brother Hugh, called abbot of Kirkstall, to his beloved in Christ the convent of the same house, health and blessing in the bond of peace,

Our distresses at the last general chapter with respect to Simon being ended, on the morrow of St. Lambert we set out for Gascony, on an uncertain errand, and with a bitter and heavy heart, as our beloved brother and son John de Bridsall will inform you. But after many hindrances, and with great difficulty, both from the unexpected length of the journey and the extreme poverty of Burgundy, which we traversed through thickets rather than along highways, we met with the king in the remotest part of Gascony. On the way we were afflicted with a quartan fever, which reduced us so low that we despaired of life; but, blessed be the heavenly Physician! nothing more than a trifling remnant of the complaint now hangs about us.

Here we found our patron, the earl of Lincoln, with other great men of the court, attending upon the king, and to him we expressed fully and to the best of our ability the distresses of the house. He was touched with pity at the representation, and promised us all the information and assistance in his power.

* * * * * * * * *

And that the treasurer and barons of the exchequer aforesaid may faithfully execute these writs, we have letters of recommendation addressed to them from all the earls, bishops, barons, and other counsellors of the king attending upon him at this place. But because the king was not inclined to interfere with the debt due to the cardinal, or to Tokes the Jew, or with him; yet by the grace of God, obtained through the mediation of your prayers, and by the mediocrity of our own understanding, reflecting that, if either of these debts remained undischarged, it would be productive of great inconvenience to the house, we hit at length upon a remedy which is likely to be effectual.

For, having shown to the earl and his council an extent of our lands in Blackburnshire besides Extwysell, and another of our lands in Roundhay, Schadwell, and Secroft, it appeared that the above-mentioned lands and tenements, with the addition of £4, which for several years last past we have received out of the exchequer of Pontefract, deducting every thing which in reason ought to be deducted, would amount to £41. 7*s.* 9*d.* yearly. Now this revenue might be sold for £413. 7*s.* 6*d.* What need of more words? Let there be no buying or sale of these premises, but a dexterous exchange. So that instead of this £41. 7*s.* 9*d.*, deducting uncertain and untried improvements, the possiblity of which we are not convinced of, we shall receive yearly out of the exchequer at Pontefract twenty-four marks for ever, with this excellent condition annexed, that the said earl, in order to discharge the debt due to the cardinal and the Jew, engages to advance three hundred and fifty marks, under the penalty of repairing whatever damage may accrue to us by any irregularity in the payment.

But what it was that touched the abbot of Fountains with compassion, by what

The success of this arrangement will be estimated by the following inventory taken in 1301, three years before the death of the abbot Grimston. "Imprimis, draught oxen 216, cows 160, yeardings and bullocks 152, calves 90, sheep and lambs 4,000. The debts of the house £160. In tesitmony hereof, Richard, abbot of Fountains, affixeth his seal."

After the death of Hugh Grimston, John de Bridsall succeeded to the abbacy. With his administration the chronicle of Kirkstall ends, and little more can be given of the subsequent history than the names of the abbots.

An interesting question arises at this stage of the narrative. What was the state of morals during this long period in Kirkstall

reasons he was overcome, and how induced to give up a great deal for a little, it would not be prudent to trust to paper.

And, that we might not be deceived in any of the premises, we have been careful to enroll in chancery the obligations we have received for payment of the above sums, and the contract in like manner. Both these, moreover, are ratified by the king's confirmation, which is in our hands.

And now, brethren, from what has gone before, ye may in some measure understand what trouble we have endured. If, therefore, we have done well, think of a recompense; if otherwise, or even if we have been lukewarm in your concerns, spare our infirmity.

But we require you that ye labour day and night, to the utmost of your ability, that every thing belonging to you (excepting the crops upon the ground, which cannot be removed without being destroyed), may be entirely taken away before the earl's messenger, whom we purposely detain here with his horse and groom, shall arrive to take livery and seisin of the lands.

And whatever is incapable of being removed, abandon peaceably, because the earl, by his letter directed to Sir R. de Salem, which he will receive by the bearer of these, hath required him to purchase, at a fair price, whatever you are inclined to sell within his bailiwick, and to afford you ever other accommodation consistent with the livery of the lands. A similar commission is addressed to the steward of Cliderhow, for the lands in his bailiwick, by the bearer thereof.

It will not be prudent to show these letters to any one; but, until you have all safe, keep your own counsel secret from every one out of the bosom of the chapter. And because we desire to be informed of what has happened since our departure, before we make any new contract, which might possibly interfere with your present circumstances, we require you, on sight and reading hereof, to inform us of your situation by the swiftest messenger you have.

Send some money too by the same hand, however you come by it, even though it be taken from the oblations, that we may at least be able to purchase necessaries while we are labouring in your vineyard. In this we earnestly entreat you not to fail; for in truth we were never so destitute before.

Farewell, my beloved!—Peace be with you. Amen.

From Castle Reginald, on the morrow
of St. Martin, A.D. 1287.

Abbey?—and did the monks of that institution exemplify any thing approaching to that general profligacy with which the monastic profession was generally chargable? We fear that the almost universal censure which all Christendom passed upon the luxurious tenants of the abbeys and monasteries of Europe, was applicable to the ecclesiastics whose history we are *now* narrating. John de Bridsall, the last abbot we have mentioned, found it necessary upon some conventual business to visit *Canterbury*, from which city he addressed a letter to his brethren at home, written, as its postcript states, with many tears (the *unmanly* maudlin style of these monks would be amusing if it were not contemptible). In this communication, the writer plainly *alludes* to inconsistencies, or rather to vices, which he was evidently afraid to describe distinctly npon paper. He says, "He *wrote* unto certain persons, 'abstain from every appearance of evil,' and avoid it before hand, whatever is or can be pretended on it *behalf.* God shall give you the knowledge of these things;" and there is another passage in the same letter to which we shall soon *particularly* allude, which the author of the history has justly conceived to conduct to the same conclusion. Another fact will reduce *this* suspicion to certainty. After John de Bridsall, succeeded Abbot Walker; then Abbot William, elected 1341—then Roger *de* Leedes, elected 1349—then John Thornberg, elected 1378—then John de Bardsey, whose name occurs 1396 and 1399—and *then* Abbot William Grayson.

A very remarkable record, which corresponds with the time of the last-mentioned abbot, was discovered among the charters of the Cottonian Library, and has been translated by the author of the History of the Abbey. The following is the document adverted to.—"To all whom these presents may come, brother Robert, Abbot of the Monastery of the Blessed Mary at Kirkstall, health and faith in the following. Though by the institutes of our order, the admission of women is prohibited under heavy penalties within the precincts of Cistercian Abbeys; we nevertheless, being desirous of the salvation of souls, which undoubtedly will be obtained as well by women as men, who in certain days in the year happen to visit the church of the said monastery of Kirkstall, and which visits, moreover, are clearly allowed in some indulgencies granted by Pope Boniface the Ninth, we hereby tolerate, pro tempore, on the above-mentioned days, the admission of women to the said church solely; provided,

notwithstanding, that such females be not introduced into any other apartment within the confines of the said monastery, neither by the abbots, nor by any of the monks, under the penalties awarded by the aforesaid ordinance; which penalties we by these presents decree, and without remission enforce, as well against the abbot as the monks of the aforesaid monastery, if they shall be found to transgress what is permitted them. Given at our monastery of Fountaynes, A. D. 1461." It has been conjectured by Dr. Whitaker from this document, that the abbots of Fountaynes exercised a certain superiority over those of Kirkstall, and that they possessed an indefinable jurisdiction over the latter monastery. As Kirkstall was the offspring of Fountaynes, this may not be improbable. The letter, however this may be, most certainly shews that the morals of the monks at Kirkstall had been by no means blameless. The strong prohibition against the introduction of females into the apartments of the abbots and monks, shews that circumstances had occurred to render it necessary, and that the services of the church had been prostituted to the purposes of profligacy and crime. This record further illustrates the execrable superstition which these holy fathers were accustomed to promote among the credulous and ignorant people —the reader will perceive that both men and women were induced to resort to the church of Kirkstall Abbey, upon the idea that such visits might meritoriously involve the salvation of their souls.* Here are superstition and sin going hand in hand, and the pretended fathers of the church demonstrated to have rendered the most solemn services of their holy religion, subsidiary to the gratification of one of the most licentious passions of human nature.

After Abbot William Grayson, Thomas Wymbersley was confirmed in the abbacy of Kirkstall on April 6, 1468. Robert Kelynbeck became abbot, August 21, 1499, and after a presidency over the affairs of the house of about two years, he was followed by William Stockdale, created on the 10th of December, 1501. William Marshall was next elevated to the abbacy, on the 5th of December, 1506; and the last abbot was John Ripley, alias

* The author of the History of Kirkstall Abbey regards this acceptation of the abbot's words, "the salvation of souls," as a mistake, and he will have it to mean nothing more than the health or benefit of the soul to accrue from such visits. With all due deference, however, to so respectable an authority, we can attach no other meaning than that we have given to "salutem animarum."

Browne, who surrendered this convent to the crown on the 22d of November, 1540, in the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII.

When that memorable era arrived in which the fetters of papal despotism in England were broken for ever, and the monasteries, those receptacles of abomination, those strongholds of superstition, were dissolved, the establishment at Kirkstall was involved in the general ruin, and the long line of its abbots was brought to a final termination. It is well known that, in the reign of Henry VIII., two acts were passed for the dissolution of the religious establishments. The first act, passed in 1535, pronounced the dissolution of all the houses whose revenue did not exceed two hundred pounds a year; in the operation of this act, therefore, Kirkstall was not included. But the second act, passed in 1539, which legalised the surrender of all the religious houses, was the sentence of desolation to this celebrated monastic institution. At the time of the dissolution, Dugdale estimates the estates of the abbey at £329 12s. 11d. per annum, and Speed, at £512 12s. 4d.; but it appears, from some documeuts found in the Augmentation Office, that the income considerably exceeded the higher of these sums. Upon this subject the author we have so often quoted states: "Barton asserts, that all the estates confiscated were considered worth ten times the yearly revenue at which they were rated in this visitation, and the conjecture appears well founded. The system on which lands belonging to monasteries were let, was that of short leases, on the renewal of which, heavy fines were levied, and the rents allowed to remain at their former amount. It would also happen in this, as in cases of other official inquisitions, that almost the lowest possible valuation was that returned to the Exchequer by the Commissioners. Taking, however, Speed's estimate to be correct, the revenue of Kirkstall Abbey, at the period of the dissolution, may be fairly set down as equal to between eight and ten thousand pounds per annum of our present currency; and taking into account the improvement of the property in the interim, the estates of this house would now produce a prodigious income." But there was considerable property to be added, which was never taken into the estimates of the annual worth of the estates. There was the annual value of the granges which the monks retained in their occupation—there were the cattle, the corn, and the other stores which they possessed at the period—there were the plate and

other similar valuables—and there were other descriptions of property, which must have amounted to an immense additional sum.

After the dissolution, the site of Kirkstall Abbey, and some of the adjoining estates, were granted in exchange to the celebrated Archbishop Cranmer, and were by him settled upon Peter Hammond, in trust for his younger son. The estates must have passed at no distant period to the crown; for in the 26th of Elizabeth they were granted by the Queen to Edmund Downynge and Peter Asheton, and their heirs for ever. At an ulterior period, which cannot now be precisely ascertained, the site and demesnes, with the manor of Bramley, were purchased by the Saviles of Howley, and they afterwards passed by marriage, through the Duke of Montague, to the Brudenells, Earls of Cardigan, in whose possession they still remain. Nearly five hundred acres of the estates were, however, let about eighty years ago, by one of the Earls of Cardigan, on a lease of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, to the Rev. Mr. Moore, minister of the episcopal chapel at Headingley, through whose daughter the interest has passed to Sir Sandford Graham, Baronet.

The dilapidation of the abbey commenced immediately after the dissolution. The roof was then taken from the church, the bells from the tower, and the lead and timber from the other buildings, and all were sold for the benefit of the crown. It appears, too, from an entry in the churchwardens' books of Leeds, in 1583, to have been contemplated as a sort of quarry for building materials; for it is mentioned, that a number of labourers were employed, at sixpence a day, in removing the materials of "Christall * Abbaye," to assist in the erection of edifices in that town. The system of dilapidation never proceeded to the extent which might have been anticipated from its early commencement, and up to the middle of the last century, the venerable tower of the abbey appeared to the observer to have suffered but little from the ravages of time. In 1741 an old granary belonging to the Abbey was taken down; it was covered with slate brought five hundred years before from the neighbourhood of Elland, near Halifax, which had become so indurated as to resemble steel rather than stone. In the winter of 1746, the dormitory fell

* The supposition that this name was given to the place on account of the clearness of the water of the Aire, may be correct. The defiled state of the stream at present, must afford a wonderful contrast to what it once exhibited.

down; and on the twenty-seventh of January, 1779, two sides of the tower, and part of the third, were hurled to the ground. Dr. Whitaker records a singular discovery connected with this circumstance. Within a few days after the fall of the tower, he discovered, imbedded in the mortar, several little smoking-pipes, such as were used in the reign of James I. for tobacco, a proof of a fact which has not been recorded, that prior to the introduction of that plant from America, the practice of inhaling the smoke of some indigenous vegetable prevailed in England.* There can be little doubt that the comparative preservation of the ruin is to be ascribed to the early introduction of brick as a material for building in Leeds, and also to the extreme hardness of the stone, after the lapse of so many ages since it was taken from the quarry.

We shall now take a brief survey of the abbey, and then bring this department of our history to a termination. The close, with which all abbeys were surrounded, which was generally fenced with a high and sometimes an embattled wall with one or two splendid gateways, and beyond which the monks were not permitted to proceed except on the business of their convent, contained at Kirkstall about thirty acres. Parts of this high and strong wall are yet remaining, by which the exterior buildings and the live stock of the monastery were effectually protected from the marauding incursion of the savage plunderers of the borders, who were formerly accustomed to extend their desolations over the whole north of England. The principal entrance was from the north-west; part of the magnificent gateway is still standing; it is now occupied as a dwelling house by Mr. Spink, and in the principal apartment the great arch of the gate is distinctly discernible.

The original tower of the abbey rose but a very little above the roof of the church. The subsequent addition, probably to give increased importance to the external appearance of the fabric, and to provide accommodation for a peal of bells, took place about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and to the same period has been ascribed all the deviations from the simplicity of the original plan. The distribution of the internal accommodations of the monastery may be ascertained with the greatest exactness. The centre was formed by the usual large quadrangular court, into which the various offices and apartments opened, and which was entirely surrounded by a pent house cloister.

* Loid. and Elm. p. 119.

The north side of this quadrangle was constituted by the nave of the church. This fabric at Kirkstall is magnificent in its ruins, and even those deviations from taste in its architecture, which some fastidious observers have affected to condemn, were no doubt intended to increase the solemn effect of its internal appearance. The eastern side of the quadrangle was formed, first by the vestry attached to the end of the south transept of the church, then the chapter house, which in almost every monastery was adorned with peculiar care—then the refectory, one long ground room, and then two or three smaller apartments, whose uses have not been ascertained, and over the whole was the dormitory for the monks. The south side of the quadrangle was formed by the parlour, the kitchen, sculleries, butteries, &c., and all the filth and offal, from the proximity of the Aire, could easily be conveyed into the stream. The western side of the quadrangle seems to have consisted of a dormitory for the lay brothers, upon a line of arches supported by columns, which formed a covered walk for the monks. The abbot's lodgings were at the south-east corner of the building; they constituted a distinct edifice, much in the style of a capital manor house, and the foundations of the fabric can still be very distinctly traced.

In the architecture of Kirkstall Abbey, the workmanship of two perfectly distinct periods can immediately be ascertained. The tower of the church, the great chancel window, and some of the lanterns and minarets, are clearly of a far later construction than the rest of the abbey. In referring to this subject, we shall first of all quote the description of Whitaker, who has observed these ruins with unusual care, and then we shall append a few supplementary observations. The doctor says, "The abbey of Kirkstall, by its superlative beauty as an object, has almost undone the present work. As a subject of monastic history also, it has been nearly exhausted by the labours of Dugdale, and his follower Stephens. Antiquaries are as familiarly acquainted with the circumstances of its foundation, the character of its early abbots, and the particulars of its early discipline, the ruin of its revenues by improvidence, and the assistance by which they were restored, as if the transaction had passed before their eyes. Draftsmen and landscape painters, good and bad, have done their parts to delight or to glut the public taste with this enchanting ruin, and the actuest curiosity might almost look in vain for a point which has not been represented. The general

difficulty of access to the cloister-court has fortunately left one aspect of this noble building inviolate, and it has not been neglected by the draftsman.

"The cloister-court, which self-interest now preserves from intrusion as an orchard, was the cemetery not only of the society but of the wealthy laity of the neighbouring country, where two yards of consecrated ground were often purchased by as many oxgangs of productive land; here a few fragments of gravestones and crosses remain, but there is only one remnant of an inscription, on which little more is legible than the word Ricard in old English characters. The lavatory, near the south-east corner, has been richly adorned; west from this was the refectory, a groined and not very spacious apartment. By opening all the arches of the several apartments on the east and south once more into the cloister, and closing the modern apertures outwards, by simply lawning the area within, and by a judicious use of ivy where any blank spaces require to be broken, or any deformities concealed, this might be made a beautiful and singular scene; for there is, perhaps, no cloister quadrangle in the kingdom so entire as this, with the exception of Fountains, which, though of much larger dimensions, is designed in the worst taste, and of the worst proportions I have ever observed in a monastic building.

"The great kitchen of Kirkstall, together with a suite of apartments extending eastward from the south-east corner of the quadrangle, towards the foundations of the abbot's lodgings, is of much later date than the rest, and an imprudent superstructure on the original tower, which rose but little above the acute-angled roof of the church, overweighted one of the four great columns at the intersection, which, after giving warning for several years of its approaching fall, was suddenly crushed by the vast superincumbent pile on Wednesday night, Jan. 27, 1779, and brought down in its ruin more than two sides of the tower. Considered merely as a ruin, the effect of the church was certainly improved by this catastrophe; but the visible detachment of the end of the north transept, and above all, of the great east window from the adjoining walls, which might yet be prevented from increasing by the application of buttresses, threatens, if neglected, to reduce this noble remain to a state of yawning dilapidation, which will be deplored when it is too late.

"It is a trifling circumstance, but not undeserving of mention as a trait of ancient manners, but within a few days after the fall

of the tower, the writer of this account discovered, embedded in the mortar of the fallen fragments, several little smoking pipes, such as were used in the reign of James I. for tobacco; a proof of a fact which has not been recorded, that prior to the introduction of that plant from America, the practice of inhaling the smoke of some indigenous vegetable prevailed in England.

"It is to the neglect of two centuries and a half, the unregarded growth of ivy, and the maturity of vast elms and other forest trees, which have been suffered to spring up among the walls, that Kirkstall is become, as a single object, the most picturesque and beautiful ruin in the kingdom. Add to this the mellowing hand of time, which by rounding angles, breaking lines, and softening down the glare of recent colouring, may be regarded as the first of all architectural landscape painters."

Notwithstanding the loose appearance which some of the stonework has contracted by the decomposition of the mortar, it is evident that the masonry of the building was exquisitely fine, there is no doubt that the whole of the exterior was finished with the same exactness as is still perceptible on the north side of the abbey, and some of the pillars which yet remain have been polished in a manner which cannot be paralleled in any modern workmanship of the same rough material. The architecture of the church is by no means unique. The roundheaded arches of the loop hole windows of the north, probably contracted to narrow dimensions to give only a "dim religious light" to the church, are contradicted by the pointed style which every where prevails in the interior, and the whole strikingly confirms the observation of Milner,* who tells us that "in the ecclesiastical buildings of the twelfth century, pointed arches were every where intermixed with circular ones. The former were more generally placed upon massive Saxon pillars, and even in some few instances at first were very obtuse, as in the intercolumniations at St. Cross near Winchester, or, what was almost always the case, they were exceedingly acute, &c." We shall content ourselves with one more quotation from the History of the abbey upon this subject. "From the remnant of the arched roof still covering the choir, it may be assumed that the most exact agreement and proportion were observed through the whole interior of the sacred edifice. Four great arches springing from four massive clustered columns at the angles of the nave, transepts, and choir, supported the tower and apparently

* On the Ecclesiastical Architecture of England, 90, 91.

formed the centre from which diverged the probably groined and ribbed roofs of the rest of the church. In all that survives of these parts of the building, the same love of elegant simplicity and scrupulous taste may be discovered, as in the plainer and more substantial erections."

The progress of decay in ancient buildings, has generally been connected with the progress of discovery, and as the dilapidated edifices gradually crumble into ruin, interesting relics of former times are exposed to the research of the antiquary. But few discoveries have, however, been made at Kirkstall Abbey. In 1825, a number of square tiles of small dimensions, of different colours, and glazed on one side, were found near the ruins of the chapter house, and in all probability formed the bottom of a small font or cistern, raised a few feet above the level of the floor. In the following year, the foundation story of the corn mill used by the monks was detected and cleared out, and is now inclosed within the wall of the garden connected with the house to which we have before alluded, as having been formed out of the grand north-western entrances. This corn mill was of course worked by water; and the manner in which the stream was conveyed to it, is another demonstration, in addition to the many we have given, of the industry and expenditure of the monks, in promoting their own comfort and the completion of their establishment. The goit by which the water was brought to turn the wheel, commenced near Horsforth; it originally proceeded, no doubt, in a straight line to the abbey mill; and it is conjectured, that the water, after having served its purpose of grinding the corn, was distributed in subterraneous channels through different parts of the building, to subserve its cleanliness and convenience. Part of this goit is still used to convey a stream from the wood below Horsforth to Kirkstall Forge, where it assists in moving part of the machinery of that immense establishment. On the 13th of April, 1826, while some boys were amusing themselves among the ruins of the chapter house, they discovered an aperture in one of the walls, and their curiosity being excited, they removed the external slab. It then appeared that a rude coffin had been placed in the wall; some of the bones of a human body, including parts of the skull and jaws, were found, together with a quantity of dust, which

* History of Kirkstall Abbey. We cannot take leave of this author without recommending most warmly his very useful work to all who are anxious to acquire some information relative to the mode of ancient conventical life in England.

had once constituted an animated frame. No inscription was found upon the flags, but it was conjectured that the person who had been interred in this remarkable receptacle, had been distinguished as one of the superiors or principal benefactors of the abbey, and was probably either one of the abbots or of the de Lacies.

The ruins of Kirkstall Abbey form the most beautiful object in this district; and, a few years ago, the grounds in the neighbourhood were preserved in admirable adaptation to the scene.*

* Of the numerous descriptions which have been given of this ruin, we shall extract two, which we have no doubt will interest our readers. Gent's sketch of the abbey runs thus:—"The stately gate north-west of the abbey (as may appear by the magnificent arches on each side), through which they were once used to pass into a spacious plain, at the west end of the church—the chrystal river Aire incessantly running by with a murmuring noise—the walls of the edifice built after the manner of a cross, having nine pillars on each side, from east to west, beside three at each end, in the transepts—the stately reverential aisles in the whole church—the places for six altars, on each side of the high altar, as appears by the stone pots for holy water—the burial place for the monks on the south side (near the palace), now made an orchard—the arched chamber leading to the cemetery, next the church, in the walls of which are yet to be seen several largestone coffins—the dormitory, yet more south-east, with other cells and offices—all these are enough to furnish the contemplative soul with the most serious meditations. The abbey now is only a mere shell, with roofless walls, having yet a well-built but uncovered steeple, the eastern parts embraced by its ivy, and all about the whole pile desolate, solitary, and forlorn."

A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine thus describes the impressions created by this place in 1806:—"The west front is much richer than Fountains; the doorway is highly embellished; over, two conjoined windows; still higher, a single window, once lighting the roof. On the sides of the front are breaks, or buttresses, which, with the pediment, terminate with embellished turrets. The ambulatery in continuation is much ruined. The east front of the church accords in decorations with the west front; the east window is large. Viewing the interior part of the church from the west doorway, the nave has lost the groins; those to the side aisles remain. The choir retains its groins. The centre tower has remaining its south and part of the east sides. The chapter-house is not only uncommon in design, but possesses much of the sublime. It is an oblong, divided into two portions by double arches; that portion contiguous to the cloisters has the remnant of a cluster of columns in the centre supporting two divisions of groins; and so strongly is the masonry united, that, notwithstanding all the columns are gone except the centre one, the capitals belonging to them, and the springing of the groins, retain their positions, to the utter astonishment of all beholders. Ever let me seize each opportunity to hold up to praise the wonderful skill of my ancient brethren, and ever cry, What was their system of construction, and what were their materials, thus to combine, bidding after-ages look on and marvel! The second portion eastward is without a centre cluster of columns, the groins springing from angle to angle. The windows are large, and contain seats, no doubt intended for the reli-

The close within the outer walls was a fine open pasture, no intrusion either of roads or of buildings had destroyed its privacy, and a more favourable situation could not be found for the indulgence of contemplation, and of recreative pleasure. Fifty years ago, a pleasant footpath along the fields and the trees by the banks of the Aire, led from Leeds to the abbey; and at the bridge, a corn mill, a few straggling houses, and the inn which still retains its respectability, constituted the whole of the village. But the new road was formed from Kirkstall to Leeds, numerous habitations were built for clothiers, and an immense woollen manufactory began to pour forth its volumes of smoke, and to emit its din of machinery. The subsequent change we shall relate in the words of a writer on the abbey.—"Notwithstanding these menacing appearances, the sanctity of the abbey and its surrounding groves still remained inviolate, and the whole were only to be approached on foot, or, as it were, with that reverence due to the sacred associations of the place, and the venerable aspect of the pile. Within these few years, however, the retirement of the scene has been rudely invaded by the relentless hand of social utility. A new turnpike road from Kirkstall bridge (to Ilkley) now passes by the church walls, and the soft verdure that fondly enriched the ruin is torn up and disfigured by the harsh traces of social convenience. The north-west gate, originally the chief entrance to the monastery, and for some time converted into an agreeable dwelling house, is thus cut off from the abbey, and, in a word, the former integrity and loneliness of the place are irretrievably destroyed....Previous to the period just indicated, a path was permitted through the church, from the chancel window to the great western door; and beasts, sometimes in the shape of cattle, and sometimes in other shapes, then amused themselves in defacing the picturesque graces of natural decay, and in aiding the destructive rage of the elements. How deplorable, therefore, to reflect that, after the interior of the building had been protected from wanton injury,

gious when seated in council. Much of the architecture of Kirkstall is Saxon; and that which presents the pointed style is as low down (seen chiefly in the centre tower) as the Tudor date.

"It is impossible to leave these exalted ruins without lamenting (unavailing passion!) to see them left open to every depredation and defilement. Is the remembrance of former uses forgotten? Are all the fine feelings for English antiquity absorbed in heedless indifference?"

and a disposition evinced to uphold, by well-judged repairs, the more frail but important features of the tottering structure, a step should have been deliberately adopted, not only inconsistent with these objects, but subversive of the solemn tranquillity and soothing effect of the ancient desolate fabric."

CHANTRIES.

There were other ecclesiastical buildings besides the churches, the monasteries, and the nunneries, which were founded in the middle ages by the mistaken piety of the times, or rather by the genius of the papal superstition, and these were THE CHANTRIES OR CHAPELS DEVOTED TO PARTICULAR PURPOSES, of which there were a great number in our district, although the situations and the names of most of them have sunk into oblivion. Our accounts of the chantries and of the churches, to which we shall next proceed, must necessarily be very contracted.

The BEAUTIFUL CHAPEL on WAKEFIELD BRIDGE, commonly supposed to have been built by Edward IV. after the battle of Sandal, is the only one of which an extended account need to be given. This is unquestionably one of the most beautiful edifices of the rich Gothic style of architecture of the fourteenth century, now remaining in the north of England; and the western front, for grace of figure and profusion of ornament, is altogether unparalleled in this part of the country. There is no doubt that the attribution of this exquisite fabric to Edward IV. is altogether unfounded. It is true that Archbishop Holgate, who was translated to the see of York about A.D. 1544, declares that this was the case, and that both Leland and Camden have recorded, or rather repeated, the same story; but a date considerably anterior is to be ascribed to the original building, which, if Edward IV. ever meddled with it at all, he only re-edified and beautified, but certainly did not construct. A charter copied by Mr. Hopkinson into his collections, and dated A.D. 1357, 31 Edward III. demonstrates, that the king we have just named vested a rent charge of ten pounds per annum on William Kaye and William Bull, chaplains, and their successors for ever, to perform divine service daily in the chapel of St. Mary, then newly erected on Wakefield bridge, which sum was charged upon different manors

and townships in the neighbourhood. The antiquity of the chapel, which this charter argues, is fully substantiated by the figures in the front, which appear to have been designed to represent the twelve apostles, over which probably there has been a statue for Christ now completely destroyed.* A laborious author, to whose intelligent investigation of this very remarkable building we are deeply indebted, tells us, that the two figures which the observer will immediately perceive on one side, were most likely intended for David and Solomon, as they seem like kings; and that the remains of statuary on the other side, exhibiting a woman in a reclining posture, with another female, represented St. Ann with the Virgin Mary her daughter. With respect to the antiquity of these statues, our author argues it from some others which were discovered, and which had been taken from the roof, and quotes the testimony of Dr. Pegge, upon these subjects most certainly one of the best of all possible authorities. The doctor says that in the month of May, 1756, "there were found in the roof of a small chapel at Wakefield, a large number of figures—some in alabaster and some in wood, richly ornamented with painting and gilding, and very antique. The figures are attended with their proper attributes to distinguish them one from another, and to betoken to us the persons they respectively represent." This, the doctor adds, "is a requisite which undoubtedly renders it the more valuable, since otherwise at this distance of time, for they have lain as long concealed as since the reign of Henry VIII. and are no doubt in themselves much older, we should have been greatly at a loss to have known to whom each figure appertained." Dr. Pegge, after shewing that one of these figures was designed to represent the celebrated St. William, the 30th Archbishop of York,† and that it was of very ancient date, describes the rest of the figures as equally beautiful, "one of them representing St. Ann, the mother of Mary, teaching the young virgin to read, and the other two saints in the act of martyrdom—this is a group of fifteen figures in *alto relievo*. There

* See Mr. Scatcherd's Tract upon this Chapel, p. 14.

† This Archbishop occupies a prominent place in monkish legends on account of a miracle he is said to have performed at York. On his entrance into that city, 1154, the wooden bridge over the Ouse, broke down in consequence of the crowd, and a great number of persons were in danger of immediate death. St. William, however, immediately fell upon his knees, and the fervent prayers which he poured forth on the occasion were so effectually answered, that not a single life was lost. Scotch. 15.

are in all, no less than twenty five different pieces, taken chiefly out of the Old Testament and the New." These figures were supposed at the time, *and the supposition* appears to have been correct, to have been removed from this chapel for safety at the time of the reformation, and to have been considerably older than the commencement of the sixteenth century.* The connexion believed to exist between these figures, and those still remaining in the front of the chapel, is almost decisive of the greater antiquity of the building than is commonly ascribed to it. The accounts of these existing figures "tell us plainly that they were all scripture pieces and have no reference whatever to the battle of Sandal —they persuade us to believe that they belonged to the chantry erected upon the bridge in 1357—and therefore that the present chapel is one hundred years older than ever Leland, Holgate, or Whitaker dreamed of, besides being built for a different purpose."†

The occasion of the erection of this chapel is very rationally considered by our author, as originating in the gratitude of the townsmen of Wakefield, who, even in this early age, were enriched by their manufactures of course drapery, whose trade was particularly fostered and protected by Edward III. and who would therefore very naturally "build a better bridge and chapel, and give the latter to the King."

* In order to give the reader the full benefit of this curious information, we subjoin another and a more particular account of the figures. In May, 1756, in the false loft of an ancient house, used as a chapel, at the bottom of Northgate, in *Wakefield*, a number of STATUES were found, by a workman.—These were admirably executed, in various metals, as well as in wood and alabaster, each adorned with appropriate emblems, and are supposed to have been conveyed from Sandal Castle, and the chapel on Wakefield Bridge, by the religious, in the reign of Henry VIII. through a subterranean passage, part of which is now to be seen opening into a cellar, near the old building, where they were found, *at least so said the advertisement of Mr. Bucktrout*, who travelled with the figures as an exhibition. They represented Moses and Aaron, Kings David and Solomon, Christ, the twelve Apostles with their respective emblems, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist, and the three magi, Jasper, Melchior, Balthazar; St. Ann, mother of the Virgin Mary, teaching her to read; St. William, Archbishop of York, with his pastoral staff and mitre, and a monk at his feet praying; a figure with a mitre; a fine representation of two saints suffering martyrdom, in *alto relievo*, in alabaster; St. John the Evangelist was represented in the cauldron surrounded by St. Polycarp, St. Ignatius, the principal Roman magistrates, and the executioners; and another group consisted of a saint lying on a board, whilst his intestines are twisted gradually out, by a spit turned round by two lictors.

† Scatcherd 17.

With respect to the mutilation of this chapel by the devastations of some modern repairers or rather desolators, a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1809, delivers himself in the following lively terms. "King Edward's chapel of which a previous correspondent speaks in such high and deserved terms of admiration, is alas! a woeful instance of mutilation by these pretenders to architectural knowledge..... It is now (1809) cleared of its former occupiers (clothesmen and flax dressers) and is used as a news room..... But it has been repaired—REPAIRED? yes, and in a truly Gothic style—the beautiful tracery of the windows, rarely to be equalled, is totally demolished—not a wreck is left behind, and its place is now supplied by cross headed mullions filled up with spruce modern sash squares. What Goths some of these modern architects are! But the demon of innovation was not to be appeased with even such a sacrifice as this. Some other offering in defiance of taste was to be made. The front, that inimitable example of rich tracery and chaste ornament, presented itself to the despoiler, and in order to give a finish, probably as he thought to the dilapidated buttresses, he propped them up with short round pillars—four little short round laughable things, all in a row! It is really too much for common sense to be so outraged; but I have no expectation of seeing a better knowledge of ancient architecture infused into the heads of many of our modern architects, although they have before their eyes the very examples which they ought to follow. When this is the case, every admirer of our ancient buildings must tremble for their fate when they are to be repaired." It ought to be remarked at the conclusion of this extract, that although the censure it contains on the ignorance of modern architects might be very true five and twenty years ago—it is no longer extensively applicable—many of the architects in this part of the country, more particularly, have displayed an admirable union of knowledge, of taste, and of skill, and some of the buildings which have been reared under their superintendence, approach as nearly both to the form and to the stability of the most splendid ancient edifices, which can be devised by art, or accomplished by diligence.

It may be further observed that one of these architects to whom this part of the country is deeply indebted (Mr. Chantrell of Leeds) has allowed the author of the tract we have often quoted, to state his opinion, that the chapel was built about 1340. It is useless in a popular work to enter into any further disquisition

upon such a subject, suffice it to say that both the architect and the author believe that the knotted crocketted oak leaf discernible in this building is considered the best criterion in an architectural *point of view.**

* The following information upon the former uses of bridges and the custom of erecting chapels upon them is so novel and so valuable, that we shall make no apology for its extraction :—"Some writers have derived the word Pontifex from sacrifices made upon bridges by the priests—a ceremony of the highest antiquity. These priests are said to have been commissioned to keep the bridges in repair as an indispensable part of their office. Being thus consigned to the priests, there were chapels annexed to them, on almost all our bridges of note, as at London, York, Durham, Rochester, and many other places, which I cannot now recollect or particularise. The most remarkable one, however, seems to have been at Droitwich, in Worcestershire, where the high road passed through the midst of the chapel—the reading desk and pulpit being on one side, and the congregation on the other. But bridge building ALONE, in the early ages, appears to have been regarded as an act of piety; and though generally carried on at the public expense, yet it was greatly facilitated by the donations and bequests of particular individuals.—In fact, however, like all our best national improvements, institutions, and structures, our great bridges were begun, completed, and supported, by 'the people.'

"But the priests appear to have taken an early leave of the bridges, and confined themselves to their chapels; from which two certain inferences may be drawn. First, that the emoluments of toll collecting did not answer their expectations. And, secondly, that the office of collector and supervisor was by no means a sinecure.

"After being deserted by the priests, the bridges came to be superintended by bridge masters chosen from the laity, and the contributions for their maintenance became quickly more and more compulsory from this era. Next to the chapels and towers or defences upon our bridges, appeared the prisons, the cages, or the stocks, for the safeguard, exposure, or punishment of malefactors; and at length on a few, hospitals, guilds, houses, and lastly shops. These, however, were permitted for the sake chiefly of pecuniary supplies, and towards the maintenance of the bridge, at which tolls were often taken; and the chief entrance into our towns being over the bridge, the street was usually called Briggate.

"In this place I must be permitted to notice some of the other uses to which our bridges were formerly converted, as the matter is rather curious. First, then, we find, that on all great occasions of rejoicing and triumph, their parapets were decorated with rich hangings of tapestry, standards, and cloth of gold. Pageants and processions also were then conspicuous, and by them our kings were welcomed into their chief towns and cities. Reflecting upon the magnificence of these spectacles, in connection with the bridges—their elegant chapels and other ornaments, our forefathers would, no doubt, be forcibly reminded of that beautiful passage in the Psalms.—'There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of our God—the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.'

"Secondly, we find, that, markets were often held upon bridges. The notices we have of these markets, are, however, so short and so uninteresting, that I shall

Besides the chapel on the bridge, there were no less than eight chantries in the town and parish of Wakefield, which have now passed into oblivion.

The CHANTRIES IN LEEDS were formerly numerous, and some of them have already been referred to (see p. 108). The first we mention, was the house at the north-west corner of Briggate, the chantry of St. Mary Magdalen, founded by William Evers, vicar of Leeds, A.D. 1370, and the reserved rent with other fee farm rents were the property of the celebrated Lord Somers, Lord High Chancellor of England in the reign of William III. There was another chantry below the ancient vicarage house in Kirkgate, founded by Thomas Clarel, vicar of Leeds, in 1430, the rent of which was returned at the dissolution at £4 14s. 4d. There was another chantry at the north end of the bridge, which we have already referred to as coeval with that structure, and of which the last priest was Sir John Clarke, who

pass them over with merely remarking that even in our nearest market town—the town of Leeds—this relick of an ancient usage has been seen within the memory of man.

"Thirdly, viewed in connection with the trade, traffic, commerce, and the administration of justice, we see the reason why our ancestors chose this site in many instances for the foundation of a town's hall, an exchange, a guild, an hospital, or a prison.

"Fourthly and lastly, we find them used to exhibit spectacles of a very different and shocking kind, I mean the heads of criminals, or supposed criminals, which were often placed upon spikes or poles on bridges, in order that they might be seen both by land and water. I say supposed criminals, for many heads of holy martyrs—many heads of most learned, enlightened, and virtuous men, have been *thus* exalted upon bridges in this kingdom, amongst the number of whom, More and Fisher are well known instances—and as to other criminals, or supposed criminals, where was there ever one who half so much deserved the axe or the halter, as that wretch who occasioned the murder of these holy saints, and who has left to posterity the character unique of having 'spared no man in his anger, or woman in his lust?'

"After what has been advanced, it seems scarcely necessary to apprise the reader, that these religious edifices were not merely receptacles for devotional purposes, but for the rest—the refreshment—and security of the solitary and comfortless traveller. Here, when the churches were shut up—when the monastic houses also were shrouded in darkness; the lights in the windows of the little chantry upon the bridge, or the beacon or lantern of its little tower, would be, to him, unspeakably soothing and delightful. No doubt they would be of some use also to those who navigated the river, where that was navigable. This however is but matter of conjecture, while the other is a matter of fact."

died 1565. Another chantry, called the chantry of our lady, stood near the old north bar. The name of the last priest of this chantry was Bradley, and he died 1563. The value of this chantry at the dissolution was estimated at £8 13s. per annum. There was a chantry at Holbeck valued at £4 per annum—another chantry was founded at Farnley by Sir William Harrington, in the 5th of Henry V.—and another chantry was founded by the Scargills at Whitkirk. Besides these, there were other chantries founded in different directions in our district, which have long since disappeared, and the investigation of which would be of no advantage either to the writer or the reader.

There is no doubt that the religious condition of the inhabitants of this district in the papal times, was truly deplorable. We have found sufficient evidence in the preceding recitals to prove, that light, and knowledge, and piety, were lost in gloomy superstition, misery, and vice. The rapacity and the immorality of the clergy we have reason to believe were enormous. Unhappy indeed was the condition of the people! the prey of a multitude of monks and friars covering the country like locusts—defrauded by the sanctimonious artifices of priestcraft of their wordly substance and spiritual freedom—and destitute of any adequate instructors to teach them the way of salvation or to conduct them to the kingdom of heaven. It is highly probable that the people who resided in this vicinity at the time of the reformation, were remarkably wedded to the papal superstitions—that they regarded with abhorrence the innovations of Henry VIII.—and that a considerable number of them, instigated by restless and discontented ecclesiastics, united in that mad expedition—the pilgrimage of grace—and partook of its disasters and disgrace. And as we shall soon see, a long period elapsed before the doctrines of true christianity were embraced, or the blessings of religious liberty were enjoyed.

CHAPTER II.

EPISCOPAL ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

By Episcopal Ecclesiastical History, we mean that of the Established Church in this district, descriptive accounts of its edifices, and the notation of any particulars in the lives of its clergy, which are sufficiently important to detain the attention of the reader. Although the field is wide and the materials are ample, we shall only attempt a condensation of the information which is within our reach; minuteness of architectural detail we shall carefully avoid; we shall give no long list of inscriptions upon insignificant tombstones; we shall enter into no elaborate calculations on the dates of windows, of porches, and of steeples, but shall endeavour to glean in this department of our work, all that is really valuable, to the utter neglect of what is uninteresting and unimportant. Our best plan will be, to take each of the towns and parishes as they have been arranged in our civil history, and to give short accounts of each of the churches they contain.

SECTION I. THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN LEEDS.

The Old Church in Leeds, demands particular attention. Before we present any observations of our own upon this edifice, we shall abridge Thoresby's very pleasing account of it, written with lively quaintness, and displaying the anxiety of that very worthy author, to maintain to their utmost extent the ecclesiastical honours of his town.

"The parish church (which was dedicated to St. Peter) is a very spacious and strong fabrick, an emblem of the church militant, black, but comely, being of great antiquity; it doth not pretend to the mode of reformed architecture, but is strong and useful. That there was a church here during the Saxon heptarchy, when the kings of Northumberland had their palace here, is more than probable; but 'tis indisputable, that in William the

Conqueror's time there was, above 600 years ago, for that Domesday Book (which I had the perusal of, by the favour of my honour'd and kind friend Peter le Neve, Esq. Norroy King at Arms) says expressly *ibi est ecclesia et presbiter, &c.* and some parts of the present church may be said to be of that antiquity, but it was so far from being built with that exhibition, that Sardanapalus (son of Pull King of Assyria, thence called Sardan-Pull) built his cities, two of which his epitaph says he built in one day, that it is evidently the work of ages, which have added both to its length, breadth, and height. The fabrick of this church is plain, but venerable; the walls wholly of free-stone, the roof entirely cover'd with lead, except that part of the quire only that belongs to the impropriator. It is built after the manner of a cathredral, with a large cross isle, and the steeple or tower in the middle of it. The dimensions of the church are, length 165 foot, breadth 97; height of the nave of the church 51, and of the steeple 96. Whoever shall compare these with those in the new view of London, will find there are but two in the 106 there mention'd (except the cathedrals of St. Paul's and Westminster) that exceed it in length, viz. St. Saviour's Southwark, and St. Thomas's; and in the latter sure there must be a mistake in the figures, as seems evident by the great disproportion betwixt 256 in length, and 33 only in breadth); but admitting it right, neither of these were originally designed for parish churches, but were composed of several religious houses, which in later ages were made into one. And as to the breadth there is but one that equals it, and but one that surmounts it in the height of the body of the church, though many in their steeples, this being only a square tower, without spire, built rather for strength than beauty, and to contain eight large bells (besides the Tintinnabulum) which ring in peal, and wherewith may be rung 40,320 changes, and which chime day and night, at 4, 8, and 12; but what is most surprising to strangers, is the spaciousness of the quire or chancel, which is within the walls as much above 88 foot one way, as it wants of 60 the other; so that there is not a third part of those in London, the length of which churches may not stand within the breadth of this. And to add one word more, this is monthly fill'd for the most part, twice round with devout communicants, one of the most blessed prospects this world affords, besides much greater numbers upon publick festivals.

" The roof of the church is supported by three rows of solid

pillars of the gothic order. In the nave of the church are four isles, which is one more than usual, that run from the cross isle to the west end, where is a stately font; 'tis gilt and painted, and stands upon an ascent of three steps, surrounded with rails and banisters. The body of the church is very well pewed with English oak, and regular till of late years, that some seats are advanced at the west end, and more remote parts, for persons of distinction not before provided for; those for the mayor, aldermen, and the vicar, are raised at the east end; and under the north wall, that for the master and mistress of the charity school, with 40 poor boys and girls decently clad in blue. Upon the north and east are spacious galleries of wainscot, wrought with variety of work, directly opposite to the pulpit, which is adorned with a black velvet cloth and gold fringe, are the town's arms, betwixt two gilt maces in relievo. At the meeting of the great middle isle with the large cross isle, the steeple is founded upon four prodigiously large pillars and arches; the north cross isle is called the Queen's, the south seems to have been the chapel of St. Katharine's, where the place for holy-water is yet to be seen. And against one of these pillars stood the pulpit in the days of yore, when there were no seats in the nave of the church; for before the reformation there were no pews or different apartments allowed, but the whole body of the church was common, and the assembly promiscuous or intermixed, in the more becoming postures of kneeling or standing.

"The chief glory of this church is, that upon the Lord's-day it is generally filled with a vastly great and attentive congregation, which is the most comfortable sight a pious christian can behold; though on the other hand it must be acknowledged, that the thinness of the auditory upon the week-days constant prayers, and occasional sermons, bodes ill, and ought to be resented with the deepest concern. Whence this so general a neglect proceeds, I cannot easily imagine, except from a supine thoughtlessness, (which I take to be one main reason why the great truths of the christian religion have so little efficacy upon the lives of its professors) for did but persons seriously weigh the matter, and consider of it, sure they durst not live in so unaccountable a neglect of what their consciences witness to be their duty; I speak of such as have no scruple as to the manner of worship, or just excuse of want of leisure by unavoidable business, but chiefly such who can find time to spend in any thing but their devotions.

What would the blessed martyrs and confessors in the Maryan persecutions have thought of such a temper, and at how great a rate would the poor Protestants at this day, in many countries, purchase so great a happiness, as to know whether they might freely resort to offer up their prayers and thanksgivings to God in that solemn and publick manner, that we have the happy opportunity of doing twice every day ?"

Of the old Saxon church, not a vestige can be expected to remain, its fabric was most probably composed of humble materials, and when the whole parish did not contain a population of a thousand souls, its dimensions cannot have been very considerable. The whole of the original structure, says Dr. Whitaker, the outline of which is undoubtedly included within the present extended fabric, consisted probably of a single nave and choir, but subsequent demolitions and substitutions have removed every vestige of this primitive edifice. It has been conjectured that the first Norman church was erected between the reigns of Henry I. and John, but of this but few traces can be discovered. The oldest part now remaining of the parish church of Leeds, namely, the spacious and handsome nave, is referred by the writer we have just quoted to the time of Edward III. " when the first introduction of manufactures, of which that monarch was the father in England, had introduced wealth and munificence, their usual attendants." The doctor adds, "the rebuilding of the choir would devolve upon the religious appropriators, who were seldom very forward in such works. Thus probably the church remained till the reigns of Henry VII and VIII. during which period the whole of the north aisle from east to west was added, and the south aisle rebuilt. The transept is probably coeval with the nave, and both, as appears by the form of the arches connected with it, with the tower.....The nave measures ninety five feet in length and is supported by three massy clustered columns, and four arches on each side. The antique pointed gable is visible over the great window, which proves this part to have been considerably raised for the clere-story windows, which were probably added when the north aisle was built, and the south side was enlarged. The fine old stone tracery of the west window was removed in the year 1708. The whole church is one hundred and sixty five feet in length, and ninety seven in breadth, the high choir fifty seven feet in length ; in breadth twenty two ; in height thirty six, and two hundred and seventy four in circumference, well

adapted to the most numerous communions perhaps in the kingdom ; for there is probably no other church where one thousand communicants have been ordinarily observed." By a strange perversion of taste, for which it is impossible to account, the great east window is obstructed, partly by a screen and partly by a vestry.

The exterior of this church is plain, and though exhibiting some deformities and inelegances, is neat and imposing. The west front exhibits a lofty pointed window of four lights, of modern workmanship, and very clumsy ; it is made into three series by single arched heads—a square headed window of six lights terminates the end of the extreme north aisle on the same front—the whole south side of the church was repaired and restored between 1808 and 1812 by Mr. T. Taylor—the nave is made into five unequal divisions by buttresses—over the whole is placed an embattlement, and in the second division from the west is a large porch. The window of the south transept is of five lights with arches, and tracery of very inaccurate construction. The chancel is in three divisions with square windows of five lights, and with ornaments similar to those on the nave ; of the east window we have already spoken. The north side of the chancel is similar to the south, the window of the transept is of five lights with perpendicular tracery, the nave on the north is similar to the south except in the absence of two pointed windows, the places of which are blank, and with a circular arched porch supported on columns. The tower rises at the intersection of the nave and transept, it is square and embattled with buttresses at the angles, with a pointed window and a clock face in each front, and with a weather cock rising from the centre.

The arrangement of the galleries in the interior of this church, greatly injures the general effect of its appearance—four pointed arches, resting upon columns formed by a union of four cylinders, divide the aisles from the body of the church—the font at the west end of the nave, is an octagonal basin with blank shields in each face—the window of the south transept, exhibits beautifully painted glass, executed by an ingenious artist of the town, afterwards unfortunately deprived of sight—in the opposite transept is an elegant octagon font of modern workmanship—the aisles are separated from the transepts by screens of carved oak enriched by elaborate tracery—and the chancel, which is unpewed, is divided from the aisles by three pointed arches resting upon octagonal pillars. Before the reformation, a number of chantries

or chapels were attached to the church, which the reader will find described in Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete, but of which we can only repeat the names. The "Rockley Queere," belonging to the ancient owners of Rockley Hall, the only family in the parish which was honoured with such distinction, was on the south side of the high choir—a chantry of the Holy Trinity was situated at the east end of the aisle, immediately north from the high choir—the chantry of St. Mary's, or as it was sometimes called "our Lady's Service," was at the east end of the present north aisle—and St. Catherine's chantry was at the east end of the south chantry.

The following is a brief account of the changes which have taken place in the advowson of the parish church of Leeds. In 1089 it was given by Ralph Paganel to the priory of the Holy Trinity at York. The holy fathers seem to have been perfectly able to take care of their own interests, for without any appropriation, and by a private bargain with the presentee, they assigned to him only one third of the tithes and altarage, reserving the other two thirds to themselves; great contentions immediately ensued between the incumbents and the patrons, until Walter Gray, archbishop of York, put an end to the controversy by the ordination of a vicarage in the church, The priory of the Holy Trinity was dissolved A.D. 1538 by the prior and the priests, some of whom were charged with the most odious crimes. The advowson was then granted by letters patent to Thomas Culpepper, Esq.; his son Alexander disposed of it to Rowland Cowick of London; he in the 5th of Elizabeth passed it to Thomas Preston; he eleven years afterwards sold it to Edmund Darnley of London, haberdasher. Oliver Darnley sold it for £130 to the parishioners, and the gift is now in the hands of twenty five trustees. The manner in which the purchase of the advowson by the inhabitants was effected, is highly honourable to them. The first protestant vicar of Leeds was Alexander Fasset or Fawcett, who appears to have been alike destitute of fixedness of principle, and capacity for the communication of instruction. The people of Leeds, desirous of escaping from the evil which they had to deplore of a ministry by which they could not profit, and which they could not esteem, determined to have the election of the vicar in their own hands, and therefore obtained possession of the advowson for a comparatively insignificant sum of money. "A greater benefit," exclaims Dr. Whitaker, "was never conferred upon a parish. Had it not been for this judicious and well-timed step, the cure of

many thousand souls might at every avoidance have been consigned to some younger son, or some worthless favourite of a great family, raw, dissipated, and ignorant; the advowson might have been advertised and brought under the hammer from time to time, with the usual recommendations—the vicinity of a pack of fox-hounds or the certainty of good society and evening card parties."

The character of most of the vicars has fully vindicated the step which was taken by the people, and in no other parish has there been a succession of clergymen, who, with all the bigotry which has been exemplified by some of them, have displayed a greater freedom from moral inconsistency and contamination. A list of these clergymen we shall now give. Robert Cooke, a native of Kirk Beeston, in this parish, a powerful disputant and a most acute and learned critic, was the first after the Fasset we have mentioned. After his death in 1614, some difficulty occurred relative to the advowson, which was decided by Lord Bacon, who arranged the number and the names of the electing trustees, and under whose patronage Alexander Cooke, the brother of the preceding clergyman, was inducted to the living. He published several works on the papal controversy, and seems to have possessed the principles, and to have imitated the practice of his brother. He died in 1632 and was succeeded by Mr. Henry Robinson, the son of Mr. Alexander Robinson merchant of Leeds, and Grace, the sister of the celebrated Harrison. The curious history of this zealous royalist we have already given, (see p. 52.) Mr. Peter Saxton, whose character we have elsewhere described, and whose memory we have vindicated, (see p. 100,) was the next vicar, and he was succeeded by William Styles, a moderate royalist. Dr. John Lake, afterwards bishop of Chichester, succeeded after the restoration, and after his translation, the following clergymen followed. Marmaduke Cooke, D.D. who died 1684—John Milner, A. B., resigned 1689—John Killingbeck, B. D., another native of the parish, who died 1716—Joseph Cookson, also a native of Leeds, and previously lecturer, who died 1745. —After a dispute in which we feel no interest, and the particulars of which we shall not detail, Samuel Kershaw, A.M., followed in the vicarage, and died 1786—Peter Haddon, A. M. the only person who since the purchase of the advowson had been vicar of Leeds, who was not a native of the West Riding of Yorkshire, died 1815—and was succeeded by Richard Fawcett, A.M., a native of the town, and the present vicar of Leeds.

EPITAPHS IN LEEDS OLD CHURCH.

Adjacent lyes John Hardwicke's corps interr'd
Whose Soul into the Land of Life's transferr'd
A lovely plant sprung from a noble race
Of modest vertuous life, of comely grace
Of pregnant wit admir'd of great and small
Loving and courteous, and belov'd of all.
Vertues Perfection, Natures Gem tho' deare
And much bewail'd too worthy to live here
A child in yeares yet grown in vertuous fame
And lives Immortal to preserve his name.

Upon Brass Plates on the adjoining grave stones.

Here lies his Fathers eldest Son
Whose Name was Edward Waddington
Close by his Grandfather John Thwayts,
Both snatcht away by Cruel fates
Whom God above (we hope) has blest
To live with him an endlesse rest.

To the memory of Mr. John Thoresby, who died Sept. 20, 1661, ætat 69.

Here lies lamented precious Dust,
A tradesman true, a Justice just.
A Husband kind, a Parent dear,
Who walked with God in Faith and Fear.

Mr. Jer. Barstow, Obit. 25th April, 1711.

Death neither Youth nor Age doth spare,
Therefore to follow me prepare ;
Whilst Life doth last, let Piety
(As it was mine) your Practice be.
Let Vertue Crown your days, and then
We happily shall meet again.

Mrs. Jane, the truly dear and vertuous wife of Mr. Thomas Potter of Leedes, merchant, departed this life the 22d Nov. An. 1679, aged 24 years.

This homely Case a Jewel doth contain,
But shew'd the World, and so laid up again.
With meek and chaste Behaviour every Grace
Inrich'd, which beautifies the Mind and Face.

John Iles, 25th May, 1796.

Short was my Stay in this frail World,
all's but a seeming Laughter,
Therefore mark well thy Words and Ways,
for thou comes posting after.
Ætatis sue 19.

Here is interred the body of Henry Roundell, of Leedes, Meadow-Lane, who departed this life, 28 Feb. 1671, ætat 74.

Here rests a Sage, a Pelican for Love,
To Wife and Childrens Children like the Dove,
Harmless to all, an Israelite, for Place
Once Alderman of Leedes, endu'd with Grace,
All Justice, Truth and Love, the Mall of Strife
Reviv'd with Love, in Peace laid down his Life.
The Poor Man's help, the Lame Man's Staffe, the Friend
To all good Men and Goodness to his End;
Tho' dead, yet speaks because he liv'd to dye,
He dyed to live with Christ eternally.
Bona fama superstes.

To the precious memory of.....and best of Men, Maister William Lodge.

He was the Poor Man's Lodge . . . .
The Naked's Cloaths, and each Afflicted's Mind,
For Counsel, Comfort, Help the Mall of Strife,
Division's Reconciler, and the Life
Of Union, of Feoffees, none more Just,
To Widows, Orphans, all in point of Trust,
The best of Husbands, Fathers, Neighbours, all,
Wife, Children, Townsmen, much lamented his Fall.
Obiit Novembris 4, 1648.
Obitumq ; deflevit mæstissima conjux EL.

Here lyeth interred the body of George Jackson, of Hunslet, who departed this life 5 Nov. Anno. Dom. 1672, aged 58.

To King and State, in spite of Fate,
I have been true and just,
For all which Pain, I shall regain
A Crown that shall not rust.
I hope that I, through Faith, shall fly
Where I shall speak and sing
The praises of the Living God
And Christ our Heavenly King.
Mors Patet, hora latet.

Francis Powell, of the new chapel, Brazier, 23d May, 1665, and Ann, his wife, 15th Oct. 1690.

The Night is past, the Stars remain,
So Man that dies, shall live again.
Our Warfare is accomplish'd, we rest in Hopes to see
A joyful Resurrection, when Time no more shall be.

Mrs. Mary Briggs, 20th July, 1706, aged 74.

Earth take my Earth, Satan my Sin I leave,
The World my Substance, Heaven my Soul receive.
Hodie nobis, cras vobis. Resurgemus.

There are several monuments in this church of a comparatively modern date, whose inscriptions we should have inserted had our limits permitted. The epitaphs on Alderman William Milner, who died 1740—upon Mr. John Dixon, the grandfather of the present owner of Gledhow—upon Charles Henry Nevile, lieutenant in the second regiment of foot, who was killed on board Lord Howe's ship, in the celebrated battle of June 1, 1794—upon his brothers John Pate Nevile, and Brownlow Pate Nevile, both lieutenants in the regiment of Guards, who died of the wounds received in the campaigns in Holland—are each worthy of observation. By far the most beautiful monument in this church, is that which was erected by the inhabitants of Leeds to Captain Samuel Walker, of the third regiment of Guards, and Captain Richard Beckett, of the Coldstream regiment of Guards, who were killed at the battle of Talavera in Spain, July 28, 1809. This monument, designed and executed in marble by Flaxman, is one of the most beautiful in the north of England.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, the second episcopal edifice in the order of time in Leeds, owes its origin to the celebrated John Harrison. Of this great benefactor, whose name to the present day is never repeated in the town of Leeds without admiration and applause, we shall say nothing at present, since his life and character will be described at length in our history of Charities. This celebrated man, in the reign of Charles I., had acquired a considerable fortune, which he devoted to the purposes of benevolence and religion, and in this church he has left behind him an impressive and durable memorial of his munificence. When he had purchased the estate of the Rockleys and Falkinghams in the nothern suburb of the town, he vested in certain trustees for the

use of the minister of the church he intended to build, for the time being, by deed of settlement dated Sept. 14, 1638, no less than seventy one acres for a glebe, together with a house and garden then valued at £11 per annum. It appears, however, that he retained this property in his own possession during his lifetime, as the minister's stipend, at that period, was paid out of the rents of the pews. The erection of the church was commenced in 1631, and it was consecrated by Archbishop Neale, September 31, 1634. It is built entirely of stone. It consists of a nave, of a chancel, and of a south aisle, with a plain tower at the west end, having an embattled parapet with crocketted pinnacles. Dr. Whitaker justly finds fault with the fact, that the windows are copies of two distinct or rather remote periods, some being pointed and others square headed. On the south side is a stone porch with a pointed arched entrance to the church, seven pointed arches, resting on octagonal columns, divide the aisle from the nave and chancel—the roof, which is stuccoed and ornamented with arabesque work, rests upon small sculptured figures—there is no change or break in the arches to indicate a choir, in lieu of which a heavy screen of carved oak enriched with foliage is thrown across the body of the church—a gallery extends along the entire length of the building, and at the west end is another gallery with an organ—the pulpit and reading-desk are composed of oak, and are of elaborate construction—the pews are covered with carved work—and the whole interior has an appearance of antiquity considerably beyond what might have been expected from its date. Dr. Whitaker says, and there is indubitable truth in his statement, that St. John's Church has all the gloom and all the obstructions of an ancient church, without one vestige of its dignity and grace. This description is singularly different from that of Thoresby, which will be found in the note.*

* The church itself is so noble and stately a structure as is scarce to be paralleled in England, as founded, finished, and liberally endowed by one person, John Harrison, Esq.; a native and chief glory of this populous town, whose inhabitants were grown so numerous that the old church, though very great, could not contain them. In the church-wardens accounts, anno. 1608, I find a new stall made for Thomas and Peter Jackson, &c. because they had no room any where in the church to sit in, as it is expressly recorded by the learned Robert Cooke, then vicar. At length all the vacant places being replenished with seats, and the nave of the church also galleryed quite round, it was yet found too small for so numerous and unanimous a congregation in those most happy days. It then pleased God to move the heart of this pious and ever famous magistrate to build this noble and stately church,

By the original deed of settlement, the right of nomination is vested "in the vicar of the vicarage of the parish church in Leeds, the mayor, and the three senior aldermen of the corporation for the time being, or any three of them."

The first minister of the church was Mr. Todd, of whom some account will presently be given, and who was suspended on the very day that he entered upon the functions of his office. "The truth was," says Dr. Whitaker, "that Archbishop Neale, a rigid exactor of conformity, appointed his own chaplain, the celebrated Dr. Cousin, afterwards bishop of Durham, to preach the consecration sermon. In the afternoon Mr. Todd occupied the pulpit, and delivered a discourse in so different a strain, that though his materials must have been previously prepared, the metropolitan considered it as an answer to the morning exercise, and as an affront to himself and the discipline of the church." Mr. Todd was soon afterwards restored to his station, which he occupied until the celebrated Bartholomew day in 1662. His successors have been, 1662, John Milner, B. D., afterwards vicar of Leeds—1677, Aug. 6, John Kay, A. M.—1683, Nov. 25, Henry Robinson, A. M. —1696, Bright Dixon, A. M.—1709, Sept. 19, Henry Lodge, A. M.—1717, Samuel Brooke, LL. D.—1731, John Murgatroyd, A. M.—1768, Oct. 7, Richard Fawcett, A. M.—1783, William Sheepshanks, A.M.—1810, Francis Cookson, A. M. Mr. Fawcett, for the augmentation of the salary of the minister, filed a bill in chancery against the trustees, who thought themselves entitled to withhold from the minister all the increased rents and profits above eighty pounds, which was eight-ninths of the original income. He obtained a decree in his own favour, so that the benefice is now of at least six times its original nominal worth, and is therefore very valuable.

so that the inhabitants, who before complained with the children of the children of prophets, the place where we dwell is too strait for us, may now say Rehoboth, God has made room for us. It was consecrated by Archbishop Neile, 21 Sept. 1634, when then the founder was second time alderman of the corporation, he endowed it with £80 per ann. and left also £10 yearly to keep it in repairs. He lies interred under a monument of black marble, with this inscription, composed by Dr. Lake, then vicar of Leedes, afterwards bishope of Chichester, and one of the famous Seven, as appears by the original of his own writing, (now in my collection of Autographs) with some alterations by his brother, the learned Mr. Milner, then minister of this church.

The following epitaph of the founder is the only one in St. John's church which we shall extract.

Here resteth the Body of Mr. John Harrison,
The Wonder of his own, and Pattern of succeeding Ages.
Eminent for Prudence, Piety, Loyalty, Charity,
who (besides other Works of a pious Munificence,)
And many great Instances of an excellent Vertue
Founded an Hospital for Relief of Indigent Persons
of good Conversation, and formerly industrious,
Built the Free-School of this Town for the
Encouragement of Learning.
Together with a Chappell, this Church (which most may envie)
for the Exercise of Religion,
and endowed it with Eighty Pounds per Annum.
Also that he might do Good in all his Capacities,
He erected a stately Cross for Convenience of the Market,
and having given these Pledges of a joyful Ressurrection,
fell asleep.
Octob. 29. Anno Dom. 1656.
Ætatis suæ 77.

TRINITY CHURCH, by far the most beautiful ecclesiastical edifice in Leeds, was endowed by the Rev. Henry Robinson, at that time minister of St. John's, and the nephew of the celebrated Harrison. While Mr. Robinson promised to endow the church, when built, with lands to the annual value of eighty pounds, Thomas Layton, Esq., of Rawdon, promised to contribute one thousand pounds to the edifice—a promise which he never fulfilled. Lady Elizabeth Hastings, however, of Ledsham, of whom some biographical particulars will shortly be given, engaged in March 21, 1721, to defray half the expense of the building, provided that such half did not exceed one thousand pounds, and on condition that Mr. Robinson should perform his prior promise relative to the endowment. The site was purchased for £175; the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Robinson, August, 23, 1761, and it was consecrated August 27, 1727. The entire cost of the building was £4563 9s. 6d., of which £3731 19s 6d. was the amount of the subscriptions, and the remainder was supplied by the sale of the pews. The consecration was performed with great solemnity and ceremony by Archbishop Blackburn. Lady Elizabeth Hastings, as the principal benefactress, was led into the church with great pomp—an entertainment was afterwards given to the archbishop and his officers at an expense of twenty-five

pounds, the fees of consecration amounted to ten guineas, and the preacher, the Rev. Lewis Stephens, received five guineas for his services.

The patrons of Trinity Church are the vicar and the recorder of Leeds, and the minister of St. John's Church.

The church itself is a very handsome and elegant building, constructed with durable moorstone, and of the Doric order, although the capitals of the columns within are Composite. It comprises a nave, chancel, and aisles. It has an arched entrance in the west, with a square window above, surmounted with a pediment. The south side is made into seven divisions by Doric pilasters, supporting a proper entablature, with a cornice above, having vases at different intervals—in each division is a window, with alternately an angular and circular headed pediment, and above each of these is a small square window. The tower, which rises from the roof at the west end of the church, consists of two stories, the first with coupled Ionic pilasters at each angle, and the second with Corinthian pilasters. A small dwarf spire, which formed no part of the original plan, and which is certainly by no means conducive to the uniformity and beauty of the building, surmounts the tower, and exhibits on its summit a lamb and a cross. The interior of the church is very neat; the roof rests upon two rows of graceful cylindrical columns; the galleries, which were constructed in 1756, occupy three sides of the building; the materials are excellent, the workmanship is admirable, and, as a whole, the church is highly creditable both to the taste and the munificence of its founders. In 1793, five hundred and twenty three square yards of land were purchased by the trustees on the north side of the church, for the purpose of erecting a house for the incumbent. There are no epitaphs outside the church, and only two within, of any consequence, those of the founder of the church and of Mr. Scott, the first minister. The benefactions of Mr. Robinson will be described in their proper place. The following have been the curates of Trinity Church: James Scott, A. M.; Richard Kirshaw, A. M., ob. 1791; Francis Cripps, A. M.; John Sheepshanks, A. M. The Rev. Mr. Holmes, Master of the Free Grammar School, Leeds, is the present officiating minister.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH is a very plain, but neat and elegant edifice, on the north side of Park Square. Its component material is brick, but its quoins and dressings give it the appearance of a

building of stone. The eastern and western fronts display four Ionic pilasters supporting an entablature and pediment; in each of the outer divisions is a doorway and window, and in the centre are two windows. Each of the sides of the church has a tier of small square windows, and above them circular headed windows. At each angle of the building is a large vase. At the western end of the roof is the tower, consisting of three stories—the first square, with the clock; the second, with circular headed windows at each side, and vases at the angles; the third has two Ionic pillars at each angle, and the whole is crowned with a dome and a cross. This church has a gallery which extends round the whole edifice, and it presents a curious anomaly in ecclesiastical architecture, having the organ over the communion table, and galleries for the children on each side of it.

The existence of this church is to be ascribed to the zeal and activity of the Rev. Miles Atkinson, vicar of Kippax, and lecturer at the parish church, who, assisted by his friends, accomplished this arduous undertaking at an expense of ten thousand pounds. The ground was given by Dr. Christopher Wilson, bishop of Bristol, and the church was consecrated by Dr. William Markham, archbishop of York, on September 10, 1798. The founder of the church was the first preacher; he was succeded by his son, the Rev. Christopher Atkinson, and the Rev. Miles Jackson is the present highly respected minister.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH was originally intended for the dissenters, but the persons who had become responsible for its completion having failed, it was purchased from the assignees, and consecrated by Archbishop Markham. It is an octagonal building, in a very close and unpleasant situation, very near the old church. The interior is neat; it has a gallery round the whole edifice, and is furnished with an organ. The present minister is the Rev. Mr. King.

When the act for the building and promoting the building of additional churches in populous parishes passed the British Legislature in the fifty-eighth year of George III., two new churches were erected in the town, and one in the immediate vicinity of Leeds.

CHRIST CHURCH, in Meadow Lane, is one of the most correct and beautiful modern ecclesiastical structures in the county

of York. To enter into a technical description of it, is unnecessary, and would be unintelligible to general readers. It consists of a nave and a chancel with aisles, and a very light, graceful, and elegant tower at the west end, one hundred and twenty-seven feet high, of the decorated architecture of the fourteenth century. The whole of the exterior, especially the western front, is very rich and striking. The interior of the church presents a very spacious area, and uncommon beauty both of design and execution. The side aisles, which are divided from the body of the church by six pointed arches, have no galleries; there is however a deep gallery with a good organ at the west end, and under it there is an octagonal font, very well executed. A half length painting of the Saviour is placed over the altar. The interior arrangements and appearance of this church are superior to any thing of the kind in this district, and the whole edifice does honour to the taste and abilities of the architect, Mr. R. D. Chantrel. This church is built of Bramley Fall stone, the architect's estimate amounted to rather more than thirteen thousand pounds, and the contract, with the incidental expenses, to more than ten thousand four hundred pounds. The first stone was laid on January 29, 1823, and it was opened and consecrated in 1826; it contains accommodation for 1249 persons, there being pew seats for four hundred and forty-nine, and free seats for eight hundred.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S, on Quarry Hill, it is unnecessary to describe with minuteness. Although it is built entirely of Bramley Fall and New Laithes stone, it has no particular architectural character, it forms as complete a specimen of what is called Carpenter's Gothic as can well be conceived; its external appearance is incongruous and mean, and although the tower rises to a considerable height, it is very heavy and clumsy in its general effect. The interior, however, is spacious and light, and though the minutiæ are inconsistent, it is on the whole a very handsome church. It has no organ, and only one small gallery at the west end, under which is a font. It contains 1207 sittings, of which eight hundred are free, the architect's estimate (the late Mr. Taylor) amounted to more than twelve thousand five hundred pounds, and the contract, with incidental expenses, to very little short of eleven thousand pounds. The first stone was laid on January 29, 1823, and it was consecrated and opened in 1827. The church yard is one of the most spacious and commo-

dious in Leeds, and a little to the east of the church a very extensive and convenient school-room has been built since the consecration. The Rev. Mr. Cookson is the present minister.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, at Woodhouse, erected under the same act, is built of Bramley Fall and Park Spring stone, and is a very pleasing edifice of the architecture of the fifteenth century. It consists of nave, chancel, and aisles. The tower at the west end, which is not included in the plan, is very airy and elegant; the interior is very handsome, with a good groined roof, a gallery round three sides of the building, and a fine organ. It contains about the same number of sittings, and in the same proportion, with St. Mary's and Christ Church, and will accommodate four hundred persons in pews, and eight hundred in free seats; the estimate of the architects (Messrs. Atkinson and Thorp,) amounted to ten thousand five hundred pounds, and the contract with incidental expenses to rather more than nine thousand pounds. The Rev. J. Fawcett is the present minister.

EPISCOPAL PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE PARISH OF LEEDS.

AN episcopal chapel was first erected at HUNSLET, about 1636, when the population of the township began rapidly to increase in consequence of the divison of the Nevile estate into a number of private hands. In 1744, it was enlarged to twice its original dimensions. It is a very unpretending plain edifice of brick, the interior has a gallery and a font, and a tower with a clock was built by subscription in 1832. The following ministers have officiated in this chapel since its foundation. The Revds. Thomas Hawksworth, deprived 1662—Townes, 1664—John Paley, ob. 1731—William Barrow, ob. 1741—Robert Baynes—Henry Crooke, ob. 1770—James Milner, A. M. 1808—Richard Forster, A. M., the present minister. The living is valued in the Liber Regis, at £15 16s. 8d. and in the parliamentry return at £140.

THE CHAPEL AT HOLBECK was a very mean edifice, on two sides blocked up by the other buildings, and as Dr. Whitaker justly says, placed "in the darkest and most crowded corner of this most dark and crowded place." The new church, however, is a handsome structure of stone, in the early style of English architecture, with a high and substantial tower at the west end. It accommodates 1200 persons, 606 in pews, and 594 in free seats; the first stone was laid August 15, 1829; it was opened in 1832; the architect's estimate (Mr. Chantrell of Leeds) was £3786 10s. 11d.; and the site was the gift of the Marchioness of Hertford. The old chapel is now occupied by one of those useful and admirable institutions, a Sunday-School. The following is a list of some of the clergymen who have officiated in this chapel, Revds. Sir Richard Beckwith, 1575—John Nelson, 1637—Robert Armitage, deprived 1662——Pickard, 1666—William Scargill, 1686—William Forster, 1721—Francis Day—Wm. Carr, A. M. —Richard Fawcett, A. M.—Joseph Hague, ob. 1774—Joshua Brooke—J. Bushby the present minister.

THE CHAPEL AT BEESTON is one of the oldest in the opinion of Dr. Whitaker—he might have said it is the very oldest, in the parish of Leeds. The same author also states that the lancet window at the west end, is as old as the reign of Henry III.—it appears to us to argue a still higher antiquity. The chapel now consists of a nave and chancel, with a vestry on the north side—the south side and the east end, are the most modern and the best constructed parts of the building. Thoresby described some painted glass in this chapel of which an account will be found in the note below.* Considerable landed endowments belong to it. Ralph Beeston of Beeston, Esq., by indenture dated May 7, 39th Elizabeth, 1597, granted to Thomas Cotes a messuage, barn, stable, garden, and certain lands in Beeston, for the term of four hundred years, at the yearly rent of 10s., which premises, with other lands, were conveyed by Mr. Cotes to trustees for the benefit of the curate of Beeston for the time being. The living, which is very valuable, is rated in the Liber Regis at £28. The following clergymen have been curates in this village since the middle of the sixteenth century—Revds. Robert Armitage, 1640—Leonard Scurr, 1651————Cudworth, 1662————Siddal, 1663—William Robinson, 1672————Pollard, Christ. Topham, 1670—Isaac Thomas, A. B. 1784—Joseph Whiteley, A. M., 1789—John Cooper, A. M., 1803—Edward Tennant, A. M., 1804—Joseph Swain, B. D.,—and the Rev. Mr. Wardle the present minister.

THE CHAPEL AT ARMLEY was built in the reign of Charles I., but was consecrated by archbishop Sterne, in 1694. It is connected with a perpetual curacy, and is valued in the Liber Regis., at £26 1s. 4d. Ralph, the father of Sir Ingram Hopton, gave the site, Sir Miles Stapleton and Mary his wife con-

* Thoresby says, "The chapel is of great antiquity, though there is no real ground for any pretence to parochial dues appertaining thereunto, as one of the curates, who was of a contentious spirit, insinuated. It seems to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, by the crowned M in stone-work over the window. There is also the reliques of her picture painted upon glass in the great window, and another with a glory round the head, but miserably defaced, as are also some coats of arms, of which the first is sable, an escucheon and orle of owls argent, for Calverly, the second argent, a satire gules, for the Neviles; a third is vert a lion rampant argent for Beeston, which is also carved upon their stall in the chapel; the fourth gules, three greyhounds currant argent, for Mauleverer. In a label proceeding from one of the saints, is writ..... To Mary you keepe me.

firmed the grant, and also conveyed several pieces of inclosed common for the maintenance of the minister. This chapel has lately been considerably enlarged; though it is a low and limited edifice, it is very neat, and is kept in admirable order; and the lofty trees which wave over it, form a conspicuous landmark from afar. A very excellent house was erected here in 1704 for the residence of the curates. The following clergymen have officiated here since the consecration of the chapel.* The Revds. Thomas Bonnel.—Neriah Simpson, 1672.—Robert Hartley, 1675.—Richard Jebson, 1680.—Samuel Lister, 1690.—Christopher Wilson, ——.—Jeremiah Jackson, ——.—Thomas Strother, 1761.—George Metcalfe, 1791.—Richard Fawcett, A. M. now (1833), vicar of Leeds.—Thomas Barber, B. D.—Charles Clapham the present minister.

THE CHAPEL AT WORTLEY was erected about the year 1780, under the influence of late John Smyth Esq., the lord of the manor. A dispute upon the subject of the patronage, however, consigned it into the hands of the Dissenters, by whom for some years it was occupied. The trustees and the vicar of Leeds offered to Mr. Smyth the patronage of the chapel for two lives, but he required the perpetual advowson. This originated its temporary alienation. But in 1813 the trustees and the vicar agreed to convey the perpetual advowson to his son, the present John Smyth, Esq., who sold his right in the chapel to three of the inhabitants of Wortley, upon condition that the patronage should be vested in five trustees, of whom the lord of the manor of Wortley should always be one. Upon the death of two trustees, the trust is to be filled by the survivors. The chapel was consecrated 1813, and the endowment was constituted by the pew rents and surplice fees, and by an engagement upon the part of the trustees that they would advance two hundred pounds for the purpose of procuring three hundred pounds more from the parliamentary fund. The trustees, however, advanced four hundred pounds, and received six hundred pounds; besides which the governors added out of the parliamentary fund fourteen hundred pounds, to be ex-

* The following epitaph, once legible in Armley chapel yard, will amuse the reader:

Susanna Vevers died July 22, 1694.

Since she is gone why should we weep or cry?
It was God's will to give and tak and try
The parent's patience and if good he see
He can give nine if that his pleasure be.

pended in the purchase of freehold land, for the benefit of the incumbent. The ministers who have officiated in this chapel since its consecration have been, the Rev. George Richards, and the Rev. Mr. Kemplay, the present incumbent.

THE CHAPEL AT FARNLEY is one of the most elegant and beautifully simple edifices of the kind which can be found in this part of the country. We have already adverted to the old chantry which stood upon its site, which was founded by Sir William Harrington, in the 5th of Henry V., and which, in the reign of Henry VIII., was valued at £11 10s. 8d. The only names of clergymen, who, been resident ministers here which can be ascertained are, the Revds. Thomas Chapman,——— Belcher—John Fawcett, A. M.—Joseph Swaine, B. D., afterwards curate of Beeston—Nussey Holmes, B. D.—and W. Williamson the present incumbent.

THE CHAPEL AT HEADINGLEY is a small fabric, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a turret at the west end. It was built in the beginning of the reign of Charles I.—the ground was given by Sir John Savile, bart.—it has undergone few alterations since the time of its erection—the interior is plain and neat—and the living is a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the vicar of Leeds, valued in the Liber Regis at £11 13s. Between 1760 and 1770, when a large proportion of the common at Headingley was inclosed, a very good house was erected for the accommodation of the minister. The following is a list of the clergymen who have officiated in this chapel. The Revds. William Robinson —Joseph Edmondson— —— Claphamson—John Murgatroyd, A. M.—John Moore—Samuel Disney, LL. B.—William Lupton, A. M.—Jonathan Colton, A. M.—John Smithson, A. M., the present minister.*

* The following epitaph in this church is worthy of transcription:—

Here is deposited
the mortal Remains of
Benjamin Wade of New-Grange, Esq;
who gave the Benefit of Two Hundred Pounds to the
Curate of this chapel for ever. He departed this life (leaving
no Issue by Edith his Wife) Feb. the 5th, An. Do. 1671.
in the 81st Year of his Age.
Truth, noble Thoughts, and Vertue met in one
lye here in Shades, although his Life had none.

KIRKSTALL CHURCH is a very elegant and beautiful building, of the architecture of the thirteenth century. It consists of a nave and chancel, with a tower and a spire, one hundred and seven feet high. The interior is very plain, but very neat, three sides have galleries, and in the centre of that on the west is a very excellent organ. The altar table is of stone, with a blank arcade of arches—the font is simple, but beautiful—the site was the gift of the earl of Cardigan—it is dedicated to St. Stephen—it has accommodation for one thousand persons, half the sittings being free—the first stone was laid July 7, 1828—it was opened in September, 1829—Mr. Chantrell was the architect—his estimate was £3272, and the contract was £3240. It is surrounded with a spacious burial ground, occupying one side of the hill on which the edifice is built, beautifully arranged and surrounded with plantations. The present minister is the Rev. Mr. Hedgson. On the twenty-ninth of April, in the present year, 1833, a catastrophe took place at this church which has seldom been equalled in this part of country. A most brilliant flash of lightning, followed by a terrible peal of thunder, proceeded at about five and twenty minutes to two from a heavy cloud, and struck the spire and tower of the church. An immense stone, with which the spire was surmounted, weighing many hundred weight, was shattered to pieces; fifteen feet of the spire, in perpendicular height, were thrown down, one vast stone of great dimensions was hurled into an opposite field, at a considerable distance; the whole spire was so utterly shattered, that it must be completely demolished. The roof of the church was also broken through, the organ and several pews were damaged, and the whole afforded one of the most extraordinary exemplifications of electric violence ever presented in this part of the country.—There seems to be little doubt that the lightning was attracted by the iron with which the spire was crowned, a gentleman who was sitting in a house opposite the

Whose Bounty, Learning, Piety and Worth
being known to all, do his due Praise set forth.
Also the Body of Anthony Wade of New-Grange, Esq;
Who exchanged this Life for a better the 14th of Dec. 1683.
in the 49th Year of his Age.
He Married Mary the only Daughter and Heir of John More
of Green-Head, in Com. Pal. Lancaster, Gent.
leaving Issue by her Benjamin Wade of New-Grange, Esq;
who (to the pious Memory of his Ancestors)
erected this Tomb, An. Dom. 1694.

church, said, that he saw a blue glimmer over the place, before the explosion took place, and what is very singular, the bell was left uninjured. The damage amounted to four or five hundred pounds. A meeting of the rate-payers was held immediately afterwards upon the subject of repairs, when it was unanimously resolved to send to London a deputation to solicit assistance from the society and government funds. That assistance has since been afforded, and the spire will soon be restored to its former condition.

THE CHAPEL AT BRAMLEY, was originally founded, as it has been usually conjectured, by the monks of Kirkstall Abbey, but successive repairs and alterations have obliterated every trace of the former structure, and have given a completely modern appearance to the present building, which though neat and commodious, has nothing either externally or internally which warrants particular observation. It is a perpetual curacy, valued in the Liber Regis. at £30 1s., and is in the patronage of the vicar of Leeds. No accurate list can be made of the clergymen who have officiated in this chapel. The present incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Furbank, A. M.

THE CHAPEL AT CHAPEL ALLERTON was originally a fabric of unknown antiquity, and was not improbably at one time a chantry, erected by John Mauleverer in the reign of Edward II. The present chapel, which is a neat structure with nothing remarkable in its exterior, was built about the middle of the last century. The chapel yard is strikingly beautiful. From a tablet dated 1702, it appears that a subscription was entered into at that period "for the purchasing of the chapel yard, for the use of the minister for ever;" forty-seven pounds eleven shillings was the amount of the contributions. The following have been the resident clergymen at Chapel Allerton. The Revds. Bunnell, 1663, James Metcalf, 1674—Richard Idle, 1689—Richard Bainbridge, B. D.,—Benjamin Tidswell, 1777—Robert Feild, A. M. ob. 1800 —Edward Wilson the present incumbent. This chapel has lately been beautified, by the insertion of painted glass into five of the windows, with the representations of Christ, Peter and the cock, Moses, and the Arms of Mr. Rhodes the munificent donor, and Mr. Wilson the incumbent.

THE CHURCHES AND EPISCOPAL CHAPELS IN THE PARISHES OF CALVERLEY AND GUISELEY.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT CALVERLEY is a very ancient structure, situated on a commanding elevation, with a tower, which appearing from a distance embowered amidst woods, is one of the most pleasing objects in the surrounding country. It appears, from a lancet window in the choir, not to have been older than the reign of Henry II. The ancient family of the Calverleys were interred in the choir, and fifty years ago there was some painted glass still remaining, with the arms of the Calverleys and the Tempests. Over the vestry door there is a large rural monument to Sir Walter Calverley, baronet, with an inscription so full of the turgid and ridiculous bombast of panegyric, that had we room, we should most certainly extract it for the amusement of the reader. The following clergymen have been the officiating residents at Calverley since the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. James Smith, A. M.—John Graunt, A. M.—Richard Waugh—Benjamin Sandall, A.M.—Samuel Ferrand—William Rawson—Christopher Holt— —— Dodgson—William Laidman—Wilson Berwick, D. D.—Thomas Faber, A. M.—Samuel Redhead, the present vicar.

THE CHURCH AT PUDSEY is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the vicar of Calverley and is valued in the Liber Regis at £10 15s. The old chapel, which was erected in the latter part of the seventeenth century, was a small and inconvenient building, but the new church, which is one of the most conspicuous objects in the country, is a very large edifice, built under the superintendence of the late Mr. Taylor, of Leeds; the expence was defrayed by government; it consists of a nave and side aisles, with a vestry at the east, and a lofty, and not inelegant tower at the west end. The whole is of that incongruous order which is commonly called Carpenters' gothic. It contains accommodations for one thousand two hundred persons in pews, with free sittings for

nearly eight hundred more. The first stone was laid July 19, 1821, and it was finished and opened in 1823. The contract amounted to £13,362. The Rev. Mr. Jenkins is the present incumbent.

THE NEW CHURCH AT IDLE is an imitation of the pointed gothic architecture, with a graceful tower at the west end. The first stone was laid April 28, 1828, and it was consecrated Sep. 6, 1830. It will contain upwards of six hundred persons in pews, and more than four hundred in free seats; the architect was Mr. Oates, and the contract was £2,841. The living is a perpetual curacy, under the patronage of the vicar of Calverley, and its value in the parliamentary return is stated to be £109 5s. The Rev. Mr. Hall is the present incumbent.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT GUISELEY is dedicated to St. Oswald, and comprises a nave, aisles, transepts, chancel, and a fine tower. The original building was most probably erected by the highly respectable family of the Wards, of whom we have already given an account, (see p. 217) and a beautiful row of columns of this fabric, clustered, with Saxon capitals, and sustaining circular arches, still remains on the south side of the nave. The choir and transept have light detached clustered columns, of about the time of Henry III. In a chantry at the head of the north aisle, was the place of interment for the ancient family of Rawden of Rawden. None of the epitaphs in this church are worthy of transcription. There is an excellent parsonage belonging to the rectory at a little distance from the church. The benefice is very valuable. The Rev. W. Clark is the present rector.

The only chapels in this parish are those at Horsforth and Rawden. THE CHAPEL AT HORSFORTH was erected under the auspices the Stanhope family in 1758, descendants of John Stanhope, joint purchase of the manor in the time of Elizabeth, it has nothing remarkable in its structure, it is neat and commodious, and is conveniently situated in the centre of the village. The benefice is a perpetual curacy, and is valued in the parliamentary return at £73.—THE CHURCH AT RAWDEN, which consists of a nave with a tower at the western end, is of no great demensions, and possesses no inposing effect. It is situ-

ated in the immediate vicinity of the hall, which was the residence of the ancient family of the Rawdens; it has a very compact, as well as extensive burial ground, and from the high elevation which it occupies, a vast and beautiful prospect is presented up the valley of the Aire. It is a perpetual curacy, valued in the parliamentary return at £109.

EPISCOPAL EDIFICES IN PARTS OF THE PARISHES OF BRADFORD AND OTLEY.

THE parish church at Bradford was in all probability originally founded under the auspices of the Lacies, when their vast possessions extended from Pontefract to Blackburnshire; and it must, according to Dr. Whitaker, have been "an opulent benefice, as there was an endowed vicarage for many years, while the rectory continued to be presentative, a circumstance which never took place but where wealth had rendered the incumbent idle. During this period the vicarage was in the rector's patronage." Whatever may have been the dimensions and the architecture of the original church, not a vestige of it now remains. The present church was built in the reign of Henry VI., but the tower was not finished until about the 23rd of Henry VII. Leland mentions a chapel of St. Sitha, in connexion with this church; whether it was a chantry within the church, or a detached foundation, cannot be ascertained, since it has long since disappeared, and the very knowledge of its existence has been lost in the neighbourhood. The church now comprises a nave and chancel, with aisles and lofty tower at the west end. The southern front has lately been completely rebuilt. "The east window," says Whitaker, "is by no means distinguished by either grace of design or excellence of execution;" it contains a number of lights of the time of the early Stuarts, and it is supposed by Dr. Whitaker that the small window on the south side of the choir and eastward from Bolling chapel, was removed from its orignal station to make way for the former insertion. Up to 1619, there was no monument in this church, but there are now a very great number, the most remarkable at present are one by Flaxman, for Mr. Balme, in which there is a fine personification of old age, and that for the indefatigable mathematician, Mr. Abraham Sharpe, with a Latin inscription which it would be of no great advantage to the reader either to copy or to translate.

The adowson of the parish church at Bradford was given by queen Mary of bloody memory to the archbishop of York, but this gift appears to have been soon recalled as the crown continued to present; it has long been in private hands. The living is a vicarage valued in the Liber Regisat £20 the rental of the rectoral glebe, consisting of ninety-six acres, was valued in the reign of James I. at £83 3s. 4d., and the fee simple, was valued at sixteen years purchase so far back as 1332. The income of the vicar of Bradford is now considerable. We have already related how Bradford church steeple was the principle fortress of the town in the seiges it sustained against the royalists in the civil wars—the church has now a different and a far more estimable celebrity, it is filled with serious and attentive congregations, it is connected with the laudable exhibition of christian zeal, and it supports those institutions of benevolence and religion, which are equally honourable to the excellent clergyman who presides over its affairs, and to the friends with whom he is accustomed to act. The following is a list of the vicars of Bradford from the commencement of the seventeenth century. Richard Lyster, A.M.—John Kempe—Edward Hudson—Abraham Brokesbank—Francis Pemberton—Benjamin Baron—Bradgate Ferrand—Thomas Clapham—Benjamin Kennel, A. M.—James Sykes, A.M.—John Cross, A. M.—Henry Heap, A. M. the present vicar. Mr. Cross, the predecessor of the present vicar, left a large sum of money to be devoted to the promotion of religion, by specified trustees.

CHRIST CHURCH IN BRADFORD is a building in the Carpenters' gothic style, without any thing to recommend its external appearance—the tower at the west end has neither proportion nor elegance—the interior however is commodious—it was erected in 1813, from the designs of the late Mr. Taylor,—it is a curacy in the patronage of the vicar, of the clear annual value of £32—the Rev. Mr. Morgan is the present esteemed minister

THE CHAPEL AT NORTH BIERLEY is a neat and very convenient edifice, but without any thing to require specific description in this work. It is a perpetual curacy, valued at £104. The present minister has recently signalized himself by his zeal in securing some limitation of the hours of labour for children employed in factories. The Rev. G. S. Ball is the incumbent.

OF THE SPACIOUS AND ELEGANT CHURCH AT OTLEY no extended account need to be given. The Old Saxon Church, which is mentioned in Doomsday Book, has long since crumbled into ruins, and has almost completely disappeared—its only remains are the north door, which has a plain circular arch, and a portion of the ancient Saxon Cross, with fretwork and scrolls is inserted on the south wall. The interior of this church is well worthy of observation, not on account of its architecture, although this is imposing and venerable, but on account of the tombs which it contains of the illustrious dead. The most remarkable of these tombs is that of Thomas Lord Fairfax and Helen Aske his lady, the grandfather and grandmother of the celebrated parliamentary general, Sir Thomas Fairfax. The Latin inscription on the tomb commemorates the exploits of Lord Fairfax in his foreign campaigns, and the noble origin and family of his lady. The curious couplet on the lid, which refers to the virtues of the latter, will amuse the reader:

Here Leas frvtfvlnes, here Rachels beavty,
Here lyeth Rebecca's faith, here Sarahs dvty.

The tombs of the Vavasours of Weston, of Palmes of Leathley, and of John Dineley, who purchased Bramhope from the Earl of Cumberland, are among the most ancient in the church; while those of the Fawkeses, of Farnley, to the present generation will undubitably prove the most interesting. Some examples of those charities which our ancestors commonly and laudably connected with their religious services, are still exhibited at the church of Otley—every week there is a distribution of bread—the widow's dole of twenty shillings to twenty poor widows is given annually on the first Sunday after the seventh of April—and at Christmas, the sum of from fifty to sixty pounds is distributed, principally to such of the labouring poor as support themselves without the aid of parish rates. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor; it is valued in the Liber Regis at £13 1s. 8d., and in the parliamentary return at £128. The writer has been unable to work out a correct list of the vicars of Otley from the commencement of the seventeenth century. The following are all the names which can be acquired:—William Harrison, B. A., temp., James I.—Lancelot Dennison, temp. Charles II.—Henry Wilson, ob. 1781.—Bailey—and the Rev. Mr. Robinson is the present vicar.

BRAMHOPE AND POOLE are the only subordinates to the parish church of Otley, within the limits of our district. The CHAPEL AT BRAMHOPE was founded by Robert Dyneley, Esq. about the year 1649, and the patronage is very singular—it is vested in six trustees, who have power to suspend or deprive the minister. The CHAPEL AT POOLE is a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the vicar of Otley, and is valued in the parliamentary return at £71 17s. Both these chapelries are remote in situation, and in neither, do the congregations rise above the level of ordinary country episcopal assemblies.

EPISCOPAL EDIFICES IN THE PARISHES OF ADDLE, HAREWOOD, BARDSEY, WHITKIRK, BERWICK-IN-ELMETE, SWILLINGTON, LEDSHAM, KIPPAX, THORNER, AND COLLINGHAM.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT ADDLE is one of the most exquisitely beautiful monuments of ancient architecture to be found in the kingdom. The supposition of Thoresby, that it was a Roman temple removed from Burgdurum is too evidently false to require any argument for its contradiction.* Whitaker gives the following satisfactory statement relative to this church: "Whether this church is Saxon, properly so called, or Norman, remains to be determined. First, then, I must refer to a tradition mentioned and misapplied by Thoresby, that the church of the parish formerly stood at Burgdurum. This is fortified by the discovery of a Saxon wheel cross among the Roman remains, which plainly indicates the existence of a place of christian worship there in the Saxon period. But at the time of the Doomsday survey, Burgdurum lay waste, and there is no notice of any church there, nor in any of the manors of Earl Morton or Richard, which now constitute the parish of Adel. In the next place, it is difficult to distinguish the enrichments in the architecture which took place a century before the conquest, from those which continued in use about fifty years after. Thirdly, before the reign of Stephen, basso relievos and other enrichments almost wholly disappeared.

* Thoresby says, "At this Agelocum, or Adelocum, as Camden himself once read it, is a church of the most antique form that ever I beheld; and being built of small squared stones, like the Roman wall and multangular tower in York, I verily thought it the remains of some Roman temple, till I found in it some Christian histories, particularly the descent of the holy ghost in the form of a dove at our Saviour's baptism, wrought upon stone in basso relcivo, but after so extremely rude a manner, as sufficiently evidences their great antiquity. The inhabitants have a tradition, that Adel church once stood upon Black-hill, the very place where these Roman monuments were lately discovered, occasioned perhaps by the removal of the stones from some temple, or other publick edifice that had stood there, upon the destruction of the old Roman town."

Combining these circumstances together, I am compelled with regret to assign to this beautiful work a period almost immediately after the date of Doomsday." The church consists of a nave and a choir, and the original windows, of which some still remain, were so narrow, that the interior of the church must have been comparatively dark and gloomy. The arch entering the choir is enriched with surprising taste and skill—on the entablature on the north side is a sculptured representation of the baptism of Christ by John, with the dove descending, and a king standing by as a spectator—the taking of the body of the Redeemer from the cross is sculptured on the opposite side, and upon an adjoining capital is the figure of an armed man shooting with a bow and an arrow at a monster—the circular arch of the entrance on the south side, which the Vandalic taste of some modern times concealed with a porch, is one of the most beautiful ever seen—it is crowned with some figures, evidently intended to point out the persons of the Trinity, the eye balls of these figures are of lead; on the capitals of the four columns supporting the arch, are the names and symbols of the four evangelists; the word Taurus near a bull is legible, and the words SCVS LVCAS or Sanctus Lucas, though almost illegible, can still be traced. Upon the whole, although the roof of this church is low and its dimensions are very limited, it is in every point of view one of the most extraordinary, impressive, and beautiful buildings in the empire. The effect of the whole is heightened both by the rural seclusion of the place, and the admirable order in which the church yard is kept, and in which are placed some of the stone receptacles for the dead which have been found about the building. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist; after the dissolution the advowson was granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, after one presentation it reverted to the crown, it was afterwards purchased by the Arthington family, with whom it has remained, and their representative, W. G. Davy, Esq., is now possessed of the patronage. The parsonage house was rebuilt about sixty years since, and the glebe was laid out in a very useful and elegant manner, so that the whole forms perhaps the most desirable country clerical residence in the district. The living is a rectory in charge; it is valued in the king's books at £16 3s. 4d., and it is now a very valuable benefice. The following is a list of the rectors from the commencement of the seventeenth century: The Revds. Robert Tonson—Robert Hetch, D. D.—

—— Brearey, LL. D.—Robert Jackson—William Jackson—Sandford Hardcastle, A. M.—Henry Nicholson—George Lewthwaite, B. D., the present rector.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF HAREWOOD is of considerable antiquity, and is, in point of appearance and situation, one of the most beautiful in the county—the thick grove of trees with which it is surrounded, the ivy which mantles its west end, its propinquity to the grounds of Harewood House, and the exquisite neatness with which the whole place is adorned, render it one of the most inviting and pleasing objects of the kind in the district. Speaking generally of its interior, the only subtraction from the general good effect is, the removal of the lattices and screens. In the number and preservation of its interesting tombs, this church has long been superior to every other in this part of the country. Six of these tombs are particularly worthy of atention, viz. the first of the celebrated Sir William Gascoigne, chief justice in the reign of Henry IV., and of Elizabeth his wife—the second of a Redman and his wife—the third, supposed to be the tomb of Sir William Ryther, and of Sybil his wife—the fourth of a Redman, being an altar tomb, with the cumbent statues of a knight and a lady—the fifth, supposed to be the tomb of Sir John Nevile, of Womerly, who died about 1482—and the sixth, whose mortal tenant cannot now be ascertained—these are all melancholy and affecting memorials of the feudal times—they have each cumbent statues entire—and they display a magnificence and sumptuousness of sepulchral monument, seldom equalled, and in a country church never exceeded. Among the modern tombs, the most remarkable is that of Sir Thomas Denison, celebrated for his ability and integrity as a judge, the epitaph upon this tomb is said to have been written by his friend, Lord Mansfield. Whoever wrote it, it does no credit to the style and judgment of its writer, and is precisely such as might be supposed to have emanated from the desk of an undertaker. Of the celebrated Lord Strafford, the only memorial is the initials of his name on the altar rails. The church itself was most probably erected soon after the Conquest, and it is supposed to have been built by one of the Romilles. One circumstance which occurred in the fourteenth century proves that the benefice at that period must have been one of the most opulent in the county. About 1353, John, Lord Lisle of Rugement, considering that his ancestors, the Lords of Harewood, had

been benefactors to the priory of Bolton, in Craven, gave the advowson of this church to that house, on condition that its monks should give to him and to his heirs a rent charge of one hundred pounds per annum, out of certain specified lands, and that a chantry of six priests should be founded at Harewood, and seven in Bolton, to sing daily masses for the souls of the donor and his relatives. At the dissolution the advowson returned to the Lords of Harewood. The church is dedicated to All Saints; it is a vicarage valued in the Liber Regis at £19 8s. 4d., and the following are the only names of its vicars from the commencement of the seventeenth century which can be retrieved: Matthew Garforth—Richard Bainbridge, B. D.—James Tattersall, A. M., and the Rev. Mr. Hale, the present vicar.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT BARDSEY is one of the very best specimens of Norman architecture at present remaining in the north of England, both tower and nave imposing in appearance and admirable in mansonry; and though its columns and arches have a heavy appearance in the interior, and though some slight symptoms of decay are visible about the beautiful entrance, it appears to be just as qualified to resist the action of time and of the elements, as when it came fresh from the hands of its builders. The church, which is complete in all its parts, and consists of a nave, side aisles, porch, tower, and choir, was most probably erected in the reign of Henry I. The church is a vicarage dedicated to All Saints; it is valued in the parliamentary returns at £150 per annum, and it is in the gift of G. L. Fox, Esq. The names of only four of its clergymen can be retrieved, since the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. Richard Wright—John Fentiman—James Scott, A. M.—Francis Wilkinson, A. M.

THE PRESENT PARISH CHURCH AT WHITKIRK was built about the reign of Henry VII., and with its high and graceful tower, it forms a conspicuous landmark from many miles around. We have already stated, (see p. 268,) that it must be concluded from the name, that a church of wood existed here, in the Saxon times, although it is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, and that the present church was erected to furnish accommodation to the inhabitants of, what was then in all probability, a populous and respectable village. A chantry in this church, about the time

when it was rebuilt, was founded on the south side of the choir, by William Scargill, Esq., of Thorpe Stapleton. A beautiful and finely preserved tomb remains of his son, Sir Robert Scargill, whose cumbent statute, with that of his wife, display hands uplifted in the attitude of prayer, with a profusion of rings on the fingers. The monument of Sir Arthur Ingram has an inscription in the disgustingly turgid style of his period—the tomb of Edward Lord Viscount Irwine displays a very fine statue reclining on one elbow, the inscription is not worth copying—a very handsome monument commemorates the late Lord and Lady Irwine—but on the north wall of the church is a rural monument to a man, whose name will long be celebrated, and the inscription upon which we shall copy for the perusal of our readers:

"Sacred to the memory of John Smeaton, F.R.S., a man whom God had endowed with the most extraordinary abilities, which he indefatigably exerted for the benefit of mankind in works of science and philosophical research; more especially as an engineer and a mechanic. His principal work, the Eddystone Lighthouse, erected on a rock in the open sea, (where one had been washed away by the violence of a storm, and another had been consumed by the rage of fire,) secure in its own stability and the wise precautions for its safety, seems not unlikely to convey to distant ages, as it does to every nation of the globe, the name of its constructor. He was born at Austthorpe, June 8, 1724, and departed this life October 28, 1792."

"Also sacred to the memory of Ann, the wife of the said John Smeaton, F.R.S., who died Jan. 17, 1784. Their two surviving daughters, duly impress with sentiments of love and respect for the kindest and tenderest of parents, pay this tribute to their memory."

The church is a vicarage, valued in the parliamentary return at £120; it is in the patronage of Trinity College, Cambridge; it is dedicated to St. Mary, and its present vicar is the Rev. Mr. Musgrave, also vicar of Halifax.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF BERWICK-IN-ELMETE, dedicated to All Saints, is conformable rather to the present population of the village than to the ancient fame of the place. It is a small edifice, but kept in excellent order, and presenting the neatness and cleanliness which should always be inseparable from a village church. The advowson, ever since the extinction of the

great family of the Lacies, has remained in the duchy of Lancaster, and it is one of the most valuable livings which pertains to the duchy, or exists in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The benefice is a rectory, valued in Liber Regis at £33 12s. 6d., and the patronage is in the King as Duke of Lancaster. The following is a list of the rectors as far as it can be ascertained: The Revds. George Procter—John Scot—Thomas Dalton—Richard Beresford—Jordan Tancred—George Flaxton—Edmund Barnaby, ob. 1729.— —— Nelson— —— Perkins—Henry Felton, D. D., ob. 1739—William Harper, A. M., ob. 1749—James Edgcumbe, D. D., ob. 1750—John Sumner, D. D., ob. 1772—Robert Deane, B. D.,— —— Hodgson, A. M.—William Lort Mansel, D. D., bishop of Bristol, and the Rev. Mr. Bathurst, the present rector.*

THE CHURCH AT ROUNDHAY, in this parish, is a very elegant structure, in the lancet style of architecture, with a tower and spire, built in 1826, under the auspices of the late S. Nicholson, Esq., from the designs of the late Mr. Taylor, of Leeds. The clergyman at present officiating, is the Rev. Mr. Dodsworth.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT SWILLINGTON is a very neat and pleasing edifice, apparently built in the reigns of Edward IV. or Henry VII., and both the tower and the nave appear to have been erected at the same time. There are a great many monu-

* Of this Church Thoresby says, "All-Hallows Church here has been adorned with painted glass, but most of it is now defaced, there remain only fragments of inscriptions round the head, &c. as this qui conceptus ect de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria, by the Royal Arms in the window, the painting cannot be older than King Hen. V.'s time, the flowers de lis being only three. The steeple 'tis evident was built in the reign of Henry VI., by the inscription under the statue of Hen. Vavasour, Esq.; who by the stone he is represented with, appears to have been a benefactor thereto, Orate pro Henrico Vavasour an dni mccccIv°. He was afterwards Knighted, and High Sheriff of the county, 10 E. 4. The statue in the other nich is perished, but this inscription remains, Orate pro aia dni Rici Burnham qui dedit x marc ad edifican: hujus Campanilis. The ancient family of the Gascoigns of Barmbow and Parlington, are interred in the closset on the north side of the church, where their Arms remain in the window, empailed with the Vavasours, and the Elly's of Kyddall in our Lady's queare on the south side, as appears by the Arms, viz. Or on a plain Cross Sable, five Cresents Argent, but in neither place are any ancient monuments, all of that kind is for the Greenfields, who flourished in Berwick in Elmet in the reigns of Hen. VI., and Edward IV., upon a gravestone in the quire, Orate pro aibus Johis Grenefeld, et. Eleanore uxoris fue qui obiit."

ments in this church of the family of the Lowthers, one of which we shall extract as an amusing specimen of that posthumous praise, which almost deifies its object with superhuman virtue, so that the stupid doctrine of sinless perfection is confessed by those who would have shuddered with horror at the most distant imputation of Methodism.

"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. William Lowther, baronet, prebendary of the Cathedral Church at York, and rector of this parish. In all the relative duties of life truly exemplary; without pride; without ostentation; modest and unaspiring in his desires; of excellent understanding and sound judgment; graced with all the noblest acquirements of learning, and distinguished by that urbanity of manners, which adorns the accomplished scholar; the benign cheerfulness of his aspect shone forth, a silent testimony of the inward serenity of his mind. He died full of the blessings of a virtuous life,—full of the hopes of a happy immortality, June 15, 1788, aged 81 years."

A pity indeed it is, that more such characters did not exist in our world—the only question is, was ever such a human being known at all? There is one monument in this church to George Lloyd, Esq. F.R.S., the conclusion of which has always appeared to us to unite in a very uncommon degree touching pathos with elegant taste. It is,

"In every relation, and all christian duties,
He was such as in dying to have left
To his numerous family, and to many friends,
Great comfort as well as great affliction."

This benefice is a rectory valued in Liber Regis at £16 1s. 8d.—the church is dedicated to St. Mary, and it is in the patronage of J. Lowther, Esq. The following is a list of the clergymen from the commencement of the seventeenth century: The Revds. John Crowther, A. M.—William Pickering, A. M.—Henry Robinson, whose history as vicar of Leeds we have already given—Richard Lowther, A. M.—Thomas Clarke—Sir William Lowther—Henry Zouch, and Thomas Woodcock.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT LEDSHAM, although a very excellent building, with a strong and not ungraceful tower at the west end, is more remarkable for the monument it contains to one of the best women that ever lived, than either for the beauty of its situation, or any distinctive characters in its external appearance. Since of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, whose name has been mentioned more than once in the preceding pages, and whose character will

live in the grateful admiration of thousands, when many of those who now occupy the most prominent place in the observation of the world, are forgotten, some account will be given in the history of charities, we shall content ourselves by alluding, in this place, to the monument in question, and by transcribing some instructions which she left behind her to the clergymen of this parish, which it would be well if every other clergyman would bring into practice. The monument is truly noble and magnificent—the figure of Lady Elizabeth is placed in a reclining position, she is represented as reading a book of devotion, and her portrait is both handsome and spirited. Her two sisters, Lady Frances, and Lady Anne Hastings, are placed on pedestals by her side, as personifications of piety and prudence. The classical and elegant Latin epitaph, written by Mr. Barnard, at the period of the death of this excellent lady, master of the Grammar School at Leeds, we regret that, on account of the popular character of this work, we are unable to quote, and its spirit would evaporate in a translation. Lady Elizabeth died Jan. 2, 1739, aged fifty-eight years. The instructions of this lady to the clergyman, which are affixed to a column adjoining the north chapel, are as follows: After an appropriate introduction, Lady Elizabeth intreats the resident clergyman, to observe the following rules: (we accommodate the spelling to the usage of the present time.)

"1st. That he content not himself with an orderly and regular discharge of his duty, as the same is marked out and prescribed to him by human laws, but from a true fervency of spirit and christian zeal for the salvation of his people and his own, add to the obligations required of him by man, the adequate and only sufficient measures of the gospel, daily abounding in the works of his high calling, rule his own house well, and inforce his preaching in the minds of men by holiness of life, and the strength and power of his own example.

2nd. That he would daily, and earnestly, in private prayer, humble himself before the throne of God, for all especial blessings upon himself, upon his flock, and upon all mankind.

3rd. That he would be much in conversation with his people, and without partiality or preferring any one to the other, he would inform himself of their spiritual condition, the respective wants and occasions of their souls, and give them their portion of meat in due season, and by all the wisdom and prudence he is master of, turn the stream of their affections from the momentary

and vain enjoyments of this world, to the everlasting riches and only solid pleasures of the next.

4th. That at every visit he receives or pays, he would provide that some part of the discourse should be upon some vital subject of religion, as the absolute necessity of having it planted in the heart, and what are the hindrances whereby it is rendered unable to strike root and to fix itself there, and what the salutary and only effective means are, and wherein lies the heavenly wisdom, and what are those holy methods and ways for the removing and exterminating such hindrances, so that having the kingdom of God established within himself, and the souls of all his sons and daughters, (as in his ministerial relation he must ever account his whole people to be,) they may be able to stand in judgment, and may, through God's great mercy, in the redemption of all men, by his blessed Son, find their eternal lot and portion among his saints."

With this advice, some clerical writers have made themselves merry, and one of them has said, that "it savours of a species of lay episcopacy, to which 'devout and honourable women' are apt to addict themselves." There can be little doubt that Lady Elizabeth had seen in her day, at no great distance from Ledsham, deplorable instances of clerical laziness, delinquency, and indecorum—and on this account, if there were no other, she was fully justified in recording her recommendations; and well would it be if all clergymen, at the present day, would reduce them to practice! We do not see why good advice should not be as excellent in coming from Lady Elizabeth Hastings, as from any dignified ecclesiastic or mitred prelate in the world.

There is little doubt but that the church at Ledsham was founded by the Lacies; it is a vicarage, valued in the Liber Regis at £7 4s. 2d.; it is dedicated to All Saints. The following is a list of its clergy from the commencement of the seventeenth century: The Revds. Thomas Greenwood—William Styles—Robert Todd—William Elmhirst—Thomas Rawson, M. A.—Peter Birkbeck—Daniel Pinner—Charles Hammond—John Benson—John Benson, A. M.— —— Pavor, A. M. The patronage of the vicarage is in the hands of the trustees of Lady Elizabeth Hastings.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT KIPPAX has nothing which demands observation. The benefice is a vicarage, valued in the

Liber Regis at £15 7s. 1d.; the church is dedicated to St. Mary; the King is the patron.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT THORNER is one of the best country churches in these agricultural villages. It consists of a nave, aisles, and tower, of the middle gothic; it is dedicated to St. Peter; the benefice is a vicarage in the patronage of the King, and it was valued in the parliamentary return at £157.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT COLLINGHAM is partly of Norman architecture and partly of the time of Henry VIII.; the building itself is mean, but the tower is large, and embattled; it is dedicated to St. Oswald; the benefice is a vicarage, it is valued in the Liber Regis at £3 11s. 5½d. The patronage is in the hands of the trustees of Lady Elizabeth Hastings.

THE EPISCOPAL EDIFICES IN THE PARISHES OF METHLEY, CASTLEFORD, ROTHWELL, AND WAKEFIELD.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF METHLEY is one of the most interesting in this district. It is a living in charge, valued in the Liber Regis at £25 8s. 6½d., and it is in the patronage of the duchy of Lancaster. There was a church here in the Saxon times, the traces of the old building have long since passed away, and the present church, which is in the middle gothic style, consists of a nave and chancel, with a low tower at the west end. One relic of Saxon times yet remains in this church, and that is a rude figure of Saint or King Oswald over the south door, representing an aged man in robes, with a crown and a sceptre, and interesting and expressive notwithstanding the progress of decay. There is every reason to believe that this figure is as old as the Saxon edifice, and is contemporary with the foundation of the church and parish. This church is now principally remarkable for its numerous monuments of exquisite workmanship, and in good preservation. In a chantry on the south side of the choir, founded by Sir Robert Waterton, is the monument of the founder. This altar tomb has the cumbent figures of Sir Robert, and Ciceley his wife, in alabaster, the knight in armour, and the lady in the characteristic dress of her age, and coats of arms in the sides of the tomb. The next is a tomb of alabaster, with cumbent figures of a knight and a lady, and known by the arms to be that of Lord Welles, who fell in the battle of Towton Field, and his lady. The third is the magnificent monument of the founder of the family, Sir John Savile, of Bradley and Methley, baron of the exchequer in the reign of James I. On the north side of the chancel is a monument by Scheemakers, in memory of Charles Savile, Esq.; opposite to it is a sumptuous monument to the first Earl of Mexborough, by Wilton, with a figure of the deceased in

Westmacott, with a representation of the Raising of Lazarus, inscribed to Sarah, the Countess Dowager of Mexborough, who died Aug. 9, 1821; and the last, in the series, is a tablet to Henry Savile, second son of John, First Earl of Mexborough, who died Nov. 3, 1828. The following is a list of the rectors of Methley from the commencement of the seventeenth century: The Revds. Thomas Horne—Hugo Ramsden—Daniel Ambrose—Anthony Elcock—Toby Conyers—Gilbert Atkynson, A.M.—George Goodwin, A.M.—John Scott, A. M.—John Briggs, A. M.—A. H. Cathcart, A. M.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT CASTLEFORD, supposed for good reasons to have been built by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, has one peculiarity in its form, seldom observable in country churches; it has been built in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre. But this is not the original church at Castleford, for a former one is mentioned in a charter of Henry de Lacy, about the time of Henry I. There is nothing in the present fabric to demand observation. The benefice is a rectory, valued in the Liber Regis at £20 13s. 1½d., and it is in the patronage of the King. The following is a list of its clergy from the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. John North—Thomas Bradley—Peter Birkbeck—William Bridges—William Bridges, jun.—John Foss—John Sumner, D. D.—Robert Deane, B. D.—John Rowe, A. B.—Theophilus Barnes.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ROTHWELL was, in all probability, originally built by one of the Lacies, but the present church is of later date; it is of middle gothic, plane and unadorned; it consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel, and a tower at the west end. The tower is machicolated, and therefore intended for defence. A pretty good painting of the last supper, by Pecket, was placed in the east window, in 1770, by William Fenton, Esq. The north choir of the church belongs to the manor of Middleton, and has long been the burial place of its lords. Among the monuments in the church, the principal attention is due to that of John Hopkinson, to whose character and labours we have already alluded, and to whom every topographer and historian of Yorkshire is under such extensive and permanent obligations. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity; it is a vicarage, valued in the Liber

Regis at £19 12s. 11d.; it is in the patronage of C. J. Brandling, Esq. The following is a list of the vicars from the commencement of the seventeenth century: The Revds. Edmund Page—Robert West—William Fairburne—Anthony Iveson—Richard Idle—William Wharton, A. M.—William Brown, A. B.—James Torr—— —— Harper—Ralph Brandling, A. M. This is a very elegible benefice.

THE CHURCH AT OULTON, in the Parish of Rothwell, is one of the most beautiful specimens of the pointed architecture, and one of the most extraordinary exemplifications of private munificence, to be found in the kingdom. The following inscription, which, engraven on a plate of brass, was placed in the foundation stone, will sufficiently explain its origin. "This edifice, by the name of St. John's Church, was erected in compliance with the will of the late John Blayds, Esq., of Leeds and Oulton, who died Feb. 21st., 1827. The first stone was laid by his son, John Blayds, Esq., of Oulton, Dec. 7, 1827. Rickmann and Hutchinson, Architects." This most elegant edifice consists of a nave, aisles, chancel, and tower and spire at the west end; on the south side of the church is a very beautiful porch; and the chancel, which is built in a hexagonal form, with a spiral roof, is most richly decorated. The windows of the chancel are filled with painted glass, with the arms of Mr. Blayds, the Archbishop of York, and the architects. On a black slab, on the south side of the chancel, is an inscription to the memory of the founder of the church; the pulpit and reading desk are on opposite sides of the nave; an octoganal font is at the west end of the church; and above it, in a neat gallery, is a good organ. The church will seat about six hundred persons; it cost sixteen thousand pounds, and the building is endowed with four thousand pounds, three per cent. consols.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD is one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical edifices in the north of England. We have already seen that there was a church at Wakefield in the Saxon times, but there can be little doubt that this edifice was destroyed, and that another was erected by the Normans in its stead. Mr. Sissons, with respect to this building, says, There appears to have been three distinct erections of this church:

1st. The original Norman edifice, which remained till the

beginning of the reign of Edward the Third, whilst John, last Earl Warren, was tenant of Wakefield for life.

2nd. The church consecrated by Archbishop William Melton, 1329. This church being accommodated to the then increased population of the town, consisted of three aisles, and might have been supposed likely to have endured for many years; but for some reason, now unknown, it was, with the exception of the tower and spire, entirely demolished in about one hundred and forty years from its erection, and the present beautiful structure rose in its place. It has indeed been asserted, on tradition, that the church originally stood on other ground, but for this report there is no sort of foundation. In the year 1724, the south side of the church was entirely rebuilt, and within the last thirty years the north side and east end have been also rebuilt, and a commodious vestry added at that end. These re-buildings and additions have been made with more regard to durability than attention to the original architecture of the pile, but notwithstanding the faults which may occur to the eye of taste, it has a grand and imposing appearance.

The length of the church is 156 feet, and its breadth 69. The tower, which from its style of architecture, appears to be about the time of Edward III., and consequently belonged to the second church, is 22 feet wide in the inside, and with its spire more than 237 feet high. The spire is octagonal, four of its sides stand on the walls of the tower, the other four are supported by arches which spring from below the floor of the spire, and extend from side to side of the tower. Its original height was above 125 feet; the walls at its base, where it rises from the tower, are 10 inches thick. In the year 1715 the vane, with about one-third of the spire having been blown down, it was partially rebuilt, but neither to its original altitude nor in due proportion with the old part. These repairs were considered effectual until the year 1802, when, on inspecting the spire, it was found so much shaken towards the summit, that the stones for several courses were quite separated from each other, and admitted the weather on all sides. On the suggestion of several gentlemen of experience it was a second time repaired, and secured by iron bands, surrounding it at intervals from its base; but in the present year (1823) fears were again entertained of its security. The vane, which for a long period has been stationary, and thus offered a very great resistance to the wind, had loosened many parts of the

masonry, so that Mr. Charles Mountain, an eminent architect of Hull, employed by the churchwardens to examine it, stated the necessity of taking down and rebuilding 15 feet thereof, in order to render it perfectly secure. This has been done; besides which, the spire has been carried up to the height it was when first completed; a new vane is also fixed upon it of lighter construction than the former, and which by offering a smaller surface to the action of the wind, is less liable to do future injury. The tower has suffered by the introduction of a large belfry window and door way beneath, in other respects it retains all its original character.

The present church consists of a nave, side aisles, chancel, clere story, and two porches, one on the north, and the other on the south; over the latter is a small room in which the governors of the free grammar school, and the trustees of the different charities in the town hold their meetings. The tower is very large, embattled, and pinnacled, with a clock and chimes, and a peal of ten bells, and the spire is one of the most lofty, and at the same time one of the most graceful, in the kingdom. The interior is very elegant, and the screen dividing the chancel from the nave, the stalls and tabernacle work of the chancel, the pulpit, the organ, the three galleries, and the general arrangement and disposition of the whole, all combine to increase the general effect, and to render this church unrivalled in this part of the country.* The

* Of the interior Mr. Sissons says, "The chancel is wainscotted to the bottom of the windows, and on the north side there is a raised platform with seats for the Archdeacon and his officers, when the visitations are held. This part of the church had been much neglected by the lay-impropriators previous to the year 1813, but at that time, in consequence of a suit commenced against them by the churchwardens, they were compelled to put the whole into complete repair. The roof, which is flat and divided into square compartments with grotesque ornaments at the intersections, has been also recently painted oak colour, and the ornaments gilt.

"The screen dividing the chancel from the nave is of oak, carved with flowers, &c. in bold relief; the gates formerly attached to this screen, but which were removed to make room for the pulpit, are carved in the same style. They are now deposited in the small chamber over the south porch.

"There are no remains of the Rood-loft, but in the year 1756, on pulling down an old house in Northgate, several images of saints, &c., were discovered, some of which the compiler of this sketch has little doubt, had been removed from the Rood-loft of the church, probably by one of the officiating priests at the time of the dissolution. The proximity of the house, wherein they were found, to the church, leads him to assign it as the residence of some of the Chantry Priests, and thereby strengthens his conjecture as to the figures concealed in it.

"The communion table is raised by two steps from the level of the pavement; one of these steps extends the whole breadth of the church, the other is circular

numerous epitaphs afford but few materials for extraction, the most characterestic is that on a gentleman, long the organist of the church. The following is a copy of it:

"In memory of Henry Clemetshaw, upwards of fifty years organist of this church, who died May 7, 1821, aged 68 years.

Now like an organ, robbed of pipes and breath,
Its keys and stops all useless made by death,
Tho' mute and motionless in ruins laid;
Yet when re-built by more than mortal aid,
This instrument, new voiced and tuned shall raise,
To God, its builder, hymns of endless praise."

There is one observation which a stranger cannot but make in looking over the monuments of this church, and that is the very great number of eminent men, whose names they record and whose memories they perpetuate. Divines, physicians, patriots, all here lie side by side, and no church in this district has received the mortal remains of so many who have excited respect and admiration while living, or sorrow and regret when dead. The church yard is now very extensive, and with the vicar's croft, which has been appropriated to the purposes of sepulture, it affords tolerable accommodation to the town. The Rectory House is a very extensive building of brick and stone, and close to it is the Vicarage House. We must not omit to state, that formerly this church was so surrounded by houses, that the whole of it could not be seen at any one point; but in 1821, by the laudable exertions of the inhabitants, the obstructions in the neighbourhood were removed, the church yard was greatly increased in extent, and surrounded with an iron palisading, which allows a full view of the beautiful fabric within it. The church is dedicated to All Saints, or All hallows; it is a vicarage, to which the King has the right of presentation; and it is valued in the Liber Regis at £29 19s. 2d. The following is a list of the vicars of Wakefield from the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. Timothy Maude, A. M.—

and bounded by the altar rails. Over the table is a large picture by *Williams*,—the subject the Ascension, but the bad taste of the artist has thrown the lights, which are very broad, on such parts of the picture and the figures in it, as to produce the most ludicrous effect, instead of those ideas, which the solemnity of the scene he has chosen to depict, ought to inspire. The whole is wretchedly designed and as wretchedly executed; indeed it is to be hoped that the inhabitants will, at no distant period, replace it by some other painting more worthy of the venerable pile which this disfigures."

James Lister, A. M.—Obadiah Lee, A. M.—Thomas Scott, A.M George Arnott, A.M.—Benjamin Wilson—Michael Bacon, D. D. Richard Munkhouse, D.D.—Samuel Sharpe, A.M.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN WAKEFIELD, situated near the northern entrance to the town, is a very elegant building. The body is adorned with several Doric pilasters at each side, and is finished by a balustrade parapet with urns at regular intervals; at the west end is a tower, consisting of several stories, terminated by a small cupola, supported by Ionic columns; the interior is very neat, and the circular end is ornamented with freco paintings of the Passion in the Garden, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension. The ground on which it stands, was bequeathed for the purpose by a widow lady of the name of Newstead, who also left one thousand pounds towards the support of the minister. A tedious lawsuit, however, for some time retarded the commencement of the building, but when Messrs. Maude and Lee purchased the property of the testatrix, those gentlemen, in combination with some other public spirited individuals, obtained an act of parliament for the erection of the church. The first stone was consequently laid in 1791, by the Rev. Henry Zouch of Sandal, one of the trustees named in the act of parliament for building the church. The Rev. Thomas Kilby, A.M. is the incumbent curate.

THE CHURCH AT HORBURY was built by Mr. John Carr, a native of the place, and long an eminent architect in the county. It is in the Grecian style, consisting of an oblong with a kind of transept, and a lofty tower and spire at the west end. Although some minute faults are to be found in the architecture of this church, it may be considered a monument of the good taste as well as of the munificence of the founder. It cost Mr. Carr upwards of eight thousand pounds. The epitaph of the founder is preserved in the interior. The Rev. Joseph Thompson is the present curate.

THE CHURCH AT STANLEY CUM WRENTHORPE was built by the parliamentary commissioners; it is in the style of pointed architecture, it has two octagonal turrets at the west end and it will accommodate nearly fifteen hundred persons, half of them in pews, and half of them in free seats. The first stone was laid Sept. 13, 1821, and it was consecrated on Sept. 6, 1824. This church is dedicated to St. Peter.

THE CHURCH AT ALVERTHORPE is a large edifice in the pointed style of architecture, with a vestry at the eastern, and a tower at the western, extremity. The first stone was laid on the 15th of February, 1823, by George Ridsdale, Esq., and the building was completed in 1826. It will accommodate nearly one thousand six hundred persons, and between eight or nine hundred of the sittings are free. The architects were Messrs. Atkinson and Sharpe, and the contract amounted to £7,828. The Rev. Peter Blackburn is the incumbent.

THORNES CHURCH is a much smaller edifice, with a mean cupola; it was erected under the superintendence of the same architects. The contract amounted to £2,038, the first stone was laid Aug. 12, 1829, and it was consecrated in the following year. It will contain nearly six hundred persons, two hundred and fifty of them being accommodated with free seats.

EPISCOPAL EDIFICES IN THE PARISHES OF DEWSBURY, ARDSLEY, BATLEY, WOODCHURCH, AND BIRSTALL.

THE ORIGINAL CHURCH AT DEWSBURY existed in the Saxon times, and having been probably built near the spot where Paulinus baptized the multitude of his converts, (see p. 34,) it was no doubt regarded with peculiar veneration by the Northumbrians. Dewsbury, indeed, gave its name to one of the largest Saxon parishes in the kingdom, and was considered a place of remarkable sanctity by the credulous and ignorant barbarians. Of the interesting relics still in existence of the old Saxon church, we have already given an ample account (see p. 34.) The present church presents no appearances of the Saxon style of architecture, it comprises a nave and aisles, chancel, an octagonal vestry on the north side, and a tower finished with pinnacles at the west end. The columns which separate the nave from the aisles on the north side, are of the age of Henry III., and are surrounded by slender detached shafts, bound above and below to their principals by a kind of twisted cable; these columns are only seven and a half inches in diameter. The columns on the south side, are of a similar description, but the middle column is no longer detached, and the collateral shafts are incorporated with it. Over the communion table in this church is a painting of the Resurrection. In the years 1766 and 1767, the external walls of the church having given way, were pulled down, but every part of the interior which could be preserved has been permitted to stand. The tower was rebuilt in 1765. The great bell is said to have been given by Sir Thomas Soothill, as a compensation for the murder of a boy whom he threw into the forge dam. The chapel of the Soothills, at the head of the north aisle, contains the monument of Bishop Tilson, "who," says Dr. Whitaker, "like some others in our days, had to lament his own imprudence in quitting a good English benefice for an Irish bishopric." The monument to the memory of Dr. Nettleton, the amiable author of the Essay on

Virtue and Happiness, has a very elegant Latin Inscription. The church is dedicated to All Saints, the benefice is a vicarage in the patronage of the king, and it is valued in the Liber Regis at £22 13s. 9d. The following is a list of the vicars of this church, from the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. Henry Adam, A. M.—Samuel Pearson,—John Kaye,—Jeremiah Segar, B. A.—Paul Greenwood, A. M.—Josiah Broadhead, A. M, —Joshua Jackson,—Thomas Bowman, A. M.—Ralph Robson,—Joseph Wheeler, A. M.—William Lamplugh,—Scudamor Lazenby, A. M.—Matthew Powley, A. M.—Joseph Buckworth, A. M,

THE CHURCH ON DEWSBURY MOOR, erected by the Commissioners, is dedicated to St. John, it is in the Carpenters' gothic style, it consists of a nave and aisles, with an embattled and pinnacled tower at the west end, the first stone was laid on Aug. 7, 1823, and it was completed in 1828. The capacity of this church is limited, it will not hold more than six hundred persons, two hundred and fort-eight of whom it accommodates with free seats. The contract amounted to £5,502. The Rev, John Paine is the incumbent.

THE CHURCH AT OSSET is a small mean building, without any appearances of antiquity. It has no interments either within or without, and certainly derives no advantages from either its external or internal decorations. Its income is valued in the parliamentary returns, at £115 5s., it is in the patronage of the vicar of Dewsbury. The Rev. O. L. Collins is the present incumbent.

THE CHURCH AT EARLS HEATON has been erected by the parliamentary commissioners, it is a substantial structure of stone with a body and transepts, and a tower and spire at the west end. It will accommodate six hundred people, two hundred and fifty-two of them in free seats. The architect was the late Mr. Taylor, the contract amounted to £5,230., the first stone was laid in May, 1825, and the edifice was completed in 1827. The Rev. George Gregg is the present curate.

THE CHURCH AT HANGING HEATON was built from the designs of the same architect, it is in the pointed style of architecture, with a tower at the west end. It will accommo-

date nearly four hundred persons in pews, and more than two hundred in free seats. The first stone was laid in Aug. 1823; it was consecrated in 1825, and it cost £4,436. The Rev. Lawrence Ayre is the present incumbent.

THE CHAPEL AT HERTSHEAD is one of the most ancient ecclesiastical edifices in the district, it was certainly in existence so early as the commencement of the twelfth century, though a great part of the fabric has been renewed since its first erection, the principal door, and the arch over the entrance of the choir still remain, both enriched in the same style, although not so elaborately, with the corresponding parts of the church at Addle. The situation of this chapel is high, the view it commands is extensive, it is a perpetual curacy dependent upon the church at Dewsbury, it is in the patronage of the vicar of that place, and it is valued in the parliamentary returns at £95.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT EAST ARDSLEY is a small neat edifice, the benefice is valued in the Liber Regis at £27; it is in the patronage of the Earl of Cardigan. Although this church has been modernised, yet its architecture, its porch, and the Norman arch concealed by it, testify to its great antiquity. The font bears date 1663, and the oldest tombstone that of 1653. The former vicarage house is near the church, and appears to have been built in the time of the Protectorate.

THE CHURCH AT WEST ARDSLEY is a perpetual curacy of the value of £31 5s., in the patronage of the Earl of Cardigan.

OF WOODCHURCH we have already given an extended account, to which we must refer our readers, at p. 330, of our present volume.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT BATLEY is a fine and interesting edifice, with a beautiful embattled tower of the same description, and formerly appropriated to the same defensive purposes, as we have often had occasion to describe. There was a church at Batley, in the Saxon times, but the date of the erection of the present edifice, is to be assigned to the reign of Henry VI. The advowson of the ancient church was given by Robert de Lacy

to the priory at Nostel. In 1253, Walter Grey, Archbishop of York, with the consent of the prior and convent of St. Oswald's, ordained, that the vicar of Batley should have all the profits of the altarage of the church, and the tithes of corn of certain places which are mentioned, with the tithe of hay of the whole parish, and should have a competent mansion provided for him by the prior and the convent, "in which respect, the vicar shall serve the church profitably and honestly, and shall sustain all episcopal and archdiaconal burdens due and accustomary." A curious tradition connected with one of the tombs at this place, we have already detailed at length (see p. 356); a translation of the pompous epitaph upon the great tomb of the Lord Savile we give in the note.* The church is dedicated to All Saints; the benefice is a vicarage, valued in the parliamentry return at £150, and is in the alternate presentation of Lords De Grey and Cardigan. The following is a list of the vicars since the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. Joseph Haworth—Rog. Awdsley, A. M.—Josias

* "Here is deposited the body of the most honourable John Lord Savile, of Howley, (son and heir of the magnanimous and justly celebrated hero, Robert Savile, Knight of the Bath) who first married Catharine, daughter of the most illustrious Charles Baron Willoughby, of Knaith and Parham, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the most noble Edward Cary, Knight of the Bath, and Master of the Jewel House to Queen Elizabeth; and next married Catherine, relict of Lord Pagett, who was sister to Henry Viscount Falkland—a faithful Councellor of Kings James and Charles, and six years Lord Lieutenant of the Kindom of Ireland. By these wives he became allied to the greatest families in England and was happy in a numerous offspring. After he had, for many years, effectually preserved the peace of the West-Riding of Yorkshire, being appointed Custos Rotulorum (Keeper of the Rolls) and High Steward of the Barony of Pontefract, Wakefield, and Bradford, six times Member of Parliament for the County, and once having his son Thomas, now Viscount Savile, joined with him in this arduous and honourable situation. His prudence, felicity, and dignity being at length fully known, the most powerful Prince Charles the 1st created him Baron of Pontefract, and gave him the comcomand of the Castle there, with the title and dignity of Constable—appointed him Master of the Rolls, and one of the Privy Counsellors. Being advanced in years when these dignities were conferred, and almost heaped upon him, he left earthly honours for those of heaven, the last day of Aug. 1630, in the 74th year of his age."

Upon this epitaph, Mr. Scatcherd says, "It is not quite clear who composed it, but if his Lordship was concerned therein, it shows him to have been (what most of such aristocrats were before the days of the Commonwealth,) a proud, conceited, self-sufficient egotist; and it proves that with all his professions of seriousness, he was utterly devoid of that humility which is the first fruit of Religion, and lies at the very basis of piety. My hopes are, that the tomb only was erected 'according to his directions and appointment.'"

Broadhead, A. M.—Edward Dean—Thomas Rhodes—John Holyoake—Thomas Scott, A. M.—Henry Elmsall, A. M.—Thomas Foxley, A. M.—the present resident curate, is the Rev. Henry Cooper.

THE NEW CHURCH AT MORLEY is one of the most elegant in this district, two acres of ground were given for the site, with a donation of two hundred pounds, by the Earl of Dartmouth. The first stone was laid by the Rev. Henry Cooper, on June 25, 1829, and it was consecrated on the 30th of August, 1830. Mr. Chantrell of Leeds was the architect. The architecture is an imitation of that which prevailed at the latter end of the reign of Henry III., the proportions are admirable, and the consistency of the whole is preserved with extraordinary propriety. The tower is surmounted with a beautiful spire crowned with a cross and dove. This church* will accommodate one thousand persons, upwards of four hundred and seventy of them in free sittings—it cost only £2,954—the Commissioners made an additional grant of fifty-pounds towards the inclosure of the site—the first stone was laid June 5th 1829—the church was consecrated Sept. 10th 1830—and the whole edifice, though one of the plainest, is one of the most consistent and appropriate churches in the kingdom.

THE CHAPEL AT GILDERSOME was erected in the last century, by the agency of a Mr. Turton, who lived at the New Hall, and of a Mr. Sharp. Neither in its exterior nor interior, has it any thing which demands particular observation.

* Of this church Mr. Scatcherd says, "I congratulate not only the architect but the people in the district, upon our having an Edifice which will do them credit, in the esteem of every antiquary and man of good taste. And I feel more pride and pleasure upon this subject, when I contrast this little, neat, and appropriate structure with most of the modern churches. I appeal to every real antiquary, what are they like? Do they remind him of our ancient ecclesiastical architecture, with its fine lantern-towers or heaven-shooting spires? Can anything be more incongruous than those buildings, with their Heathenish vestibules— their 'hodge-podge' of different æras, styles, and ornament—(if it deserves the name)—their cupolas, pigeoncote, or pepper-box belfrys, more resembling a patent shot manufactory, and more appropriate to Noblemen's grounds, or public places of amusement, than any thing else. To me it is astonishing and unaccountable, if some people have no more taste than to project such things, that others should have no more knowledge than to allow their erection."

The benefice is a perpetual curacy valued in the parliamentary returns at £102.

THE PARISH CHURCH AT BIRSTALL is one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical edifices in the district. It was built about the time of Henry VIII., and its fine embattled tower is of the same date; the chancel is very fine, although it is nearly filled with pews. On the north side of the communion table was the burial place of the Nevilles of Liversege, and on the south side, is that which anciently belonged to the Batts of Oakwell Hall. The church has an excellent peal of eight bells, and a capital organ. There are no inscriptions upon any of the tomb stones which are more ancient than the present fabric, nor are there any monuments either in the church or the yard which will prove particularly interesting to the reader. A singular epitaph will be found in a note.* The church is a vicarage, dedicated to St. Peter; it is in the patronage of the Archbishop of York, and is valued in the king's books at £23 19s. 2d. The following is a list of the vicars of Birstall, from the commencement of the seventeenth century. The Revds. Robert Marsh, A. M.—William Broadhead—Joseph Ashburnell—Thomas Hepworth—Luke Cotes—Thomas Colby, A. M. ———— Marsden, D. D.—Henry Watkins, A. M. ———— Heald, A. M., and the Rev. Robert Beaumont is the present resident curate.

THE CHURCH AT CLECKHEATON is a new edifice, of the architecture of the thirteenth centuary, with a tower and spire—the contract was £2,387; it will accommodate upwards of six hundred persons, about half of them in free seats.

THE CHAPEL AT DRIGHLINGTON was built about

* This epitaph is upon Amos Street of Birstall, huntsman to Mr. Fearnley, of Oakwell, ob. Oct. 1777.—

"This is to the memory of Old Amos
Who was, *when alive*, for hunting, famous;
But now his chases are all o'er,
And here he's earth'd, of years fourscore.

"Upon this stone he's often sat,
And tried to read his Epitaph;
And thou who dost so at this moment,
Shalt, ere long, somewhere lie dormant."

1793, but was not consecrated until 1813. The Rev. Mr. Bailey is the present incumbent.

THE CHURCH AT TONG is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of J. Plumb, Esq. The Rev. W. Hammerton is the incumbent.

THE CHURCH AT BIRKENSHAW is plain but neat edifice, with a tower and spire, it was built by the Commissioners —the contract amounted to £2,929, and it will seat rather more than seven hundred persons.

THE NEW CHURCH AT LIVERSEGE is a beautiful edifice, in the style of the fifteenth century, with tower, nave, side aisles, clere story, choir, and a crypt with cells for interments. This church was built by the Rev. Hammond Roberson, A. M. who endowed it with five acres of land, and in whom and his heirs for ever the patronage of the church is vested.

THE NEW CHURCH AT HECKMONDWIKE is a small neat structure, which will accommodate nearly six hundred persons, and for the erection of which the contract amounted to £2,574 10s.

It appears, therefore, from this enumeration, that in the district within ten miles of Leeds, there are no less than 73 churches and chapels belong to the establishment.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN THIS DISTRICT.

It is scarcely possible in a work like this, to enter upon those discussions and representations which refer to the comparative state of the different religious denominations which exist in the district now under review. Individuals belonging to different religious parties, will so materially differ in their estimates, that it will utterly be out of our power to give such statements as will be satisfactory to them all. But however invidious and arduous the task, we shall, in the spirit of candour, and in adherence to truth, present to our readers a few general details, relative to the history of the established church in this part of the country.

For many years after the Reformation there is reason to believe, that the church as by law established, and which at that period included the great body of the people within its pale, was by no means adequately supplied with clergymen to discharge the functions of their office. When the immediate effects of the great change had passed away; when something like settled order had followed the confusion which is the inseparable result of all great and violent revolutions; when each of the then existing churches had one or more ministers to fulfil the sacred duties of their office, their great and laudable zeal was displayed against the impieties and absurdites of popery, the pulpits no doubt resounded with illustrations of the antichristian character of that system which the great body of the people had abjured, and some of the clergy in this district appeared in the field of controversy to fight the battles of reason and of truth. In the reign of James I., and at the beginning of that of his unfortunate son, dissatisfaction began to pervade a preponderating proportion of the people, relative to some of the ceremonies and offices which were retained in the new ecclesiastical institution, relative to the doctrines which were taught in the churches, and relative to the conduct and manners of the clergy. The reading of the Book of Sports in the churches, at the command of the sovereigns we have just men-

tioned, excited the indignation and alarm of the more serious proportion of the population; and the manner in which the high dignitaries, and most of the inferior clergy, came forward to advocate the claims of royal prerogative against the demands of popular privilege, aggravated the suspicion and dislike of the people. On this account it was, that when the civil war between Charles I., and his parliament broke out, an immense majority of the inhabitants of this district assumed the cause of the commonwealth, and contributed to the ultimate triumph of the republicans. Puritanism, which party and prejudiced writers have always delighted to misrepresent, and which they have always imagined to be the ligitimate object of derision and contempt, then prevailed extensively both in the large towns and in the country villages—the puritans were generally hated by the regular and lax episcopalians, and this hatred was repaid by corresponding condemnation. It is certain that most of the inhabitants of the district detested both prelacy and arbitrary power, and that few of them were sorry when both were overturned by the success of the parliamentarian arms. When Charles II. was restored to the throne of his ancestors, when an immense reaction took place in favour of royalty and episcopacy, when cruel persecution drove the nonconformists into seclusion, or committed them to prison—the established church was triumphant in its turn—puritans were denounced as rebels, as well as punished as sectaries—and conventicles were held by stealth in the recesses of seclusion, and under the veil of darkness. Few were the Dissenters in number at the Revolution in this district; and from the sentiments which were entertained by no small proportion of their body, soon after the house of Hanover ascended the throne, and from the almost total want of zeal and energy which prevailed among them, the established church became completely lord of the ascendant; the clergy claimed, and in a great measure their claim was allowed, to be the authorized interpreters of religion, and the only accredited ministers of Christianity; it was deemed essential to secular respectability to belong to the episcopal incorporation; and it is no exaggeration to affirm, that from the commencement of the reign of Queen Anne, to the beginning perhaps of the American war, three fourths of the people professed to belong to the established church. It cannot but be acknowledged, that the clergy, in these halcyon days of their history, did not use with either prudence or energy, the advantages with which they were favoured. They

were generally contented with the mere routine of duty, and in their abhorrence of what they deemed fanaticism, they were involved in carelessness and indifference. Zeal was seldom the inmate of the parsonage, and was scarcely ever displayed in the church, except when nonconformity became the topic of the discourse, or the theme of the sermon. There can be no doubt that this was one of the causes of the rapid progress of methodism and dissent. When the people were addressed, it might be with little learning, and certainly with no parade of knowledge, but with the eloquence which arises from strong mental convictions, and the ardour of inextinguishable zeal, they flocked in crowds to the preachings; the chapels of the Methodists and Dissenters increased in numbers, and were filled with auditors; and that defection from the establishment commenced, which has continued and increased to the present day. The appearance of some *evangelical* clergymen in the district, ultimately contributed to the same result—the labours of such men as Grimshaw of Haworth, and Venn of Huddersfield, crowded their churches, it is true, with immense congregations of devoted hearers while they lived, but when they were numbered with the dead, and their places were occupied by men who preached "another gospel," their friends seceded altogether from the establishment, and either formed independent societies or united with the Methodists. Since we shall soon have to return to this subject again, we shall not dwell upon it at length in this place. The impulse which was given by the labours of Whitfield and Wesley, extended to this part of the kingdom; a mighty change was speedily effected in the views and in the habits of a vast proportion of the people; and it is now a question, whether one third of that part of the inhabitants in the district, who make religion a matter of thought and of profession, ever attend the churches at all.

Since the commencement of the present century, a partial change has taken place in the character of the church of England in this district, and exertions have been made by its constituents unknown at any former period of its history. Some of its clergy have devoted themselves to their spiritual duties with a diligence truly exemplary; a few of them have adopted a mode of public address, more adapted to produce a popular impression than the tedious style of reading a short disquisition which falls powerless from the lips; some of them have come forward to advocate those godlike institutions, which are at once the glory and the blessing of their country; and some of them have paid as much attention to

the cottage as to the drawing room, and have thus secured that reward which is beyond all price, the gratitude and affection of the poor. Whatever odium may be cast upon what is called the *evangelical party* of the clergy—and after all they constitute that body among the ministers of the church who will save it from impending ruin—their number in this district was some years ago, decidedly upon the increase—we say some years ago—because latterly they have rather diminished in numerical amount than otherwise. It is to be regretted that these evangelical clergymen, probably, on account of some peculiar difficulties in their situation, which our readers will easily imagine without any enlarged description of ours, have shewn themselves to possess so much of the high church spirit, as decidedly to increase the popular prejudice against them, and in too many instances to neutralize the effect of their otherwise benefical labours.

The religious societies and institutions exclusively belonging to the established church, and supported by its clergy and members in this district, are numerous, and the contributions which are paid into their treasuries are rather extensive. In each of the three large towns, associations have been formed for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews has active liberal friends; the Church Missionary Society receives a great, though by no means an adequate addition to its funds from this part of the country; a certain proportion of the clergy and their hearers, may be numbered among the zealous supporters of the Bible Society, the Tract Society, and the Hibernian Society; each church in the towns has now its Sunday School, and many of these institutions are placed under an admirable system of management; the clergy in one part of the district, at least, associate for the purposes of mutual advantage and usefulness; and an immense amount of benefit has accrued to a large proportion of the people. That the reader may ascertain the extent to which this activity has proceeded, we shall present to him a statement of the institutions connected with the church, in each of the large towns.

THE INSTITUTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN LEEDS, are the following. The Leeds District Committee for promoting Christian Knowledge was established in 1815, two clergymen are its secretaries, Christopher Beckett, Esq., is the treasurer, and the depository for the sale of books is at Miss Robinson's, in Commercial Street,—

the Church Missionary Society—the Society for the Conversion of the Jews—the president, the treasurer, and three of the secretaries of the Auxiliary Bible Society, belong to the establishment—the treasurer, and one of the secretaries of the Auxilary Hibernian Society, are churchmen—one of the secretaries of the Auxiliary Tract Society, is a churchman—the committee of the Association in aid of Moravian Missions, are principally churchmen—and last year, 1832, a Church Visiting Society, which unites the purposes of religion with those of benevolence, was instituted, which is exclusively supported and managed by churchmen. The following Sunday Schools also belong to the establishment. The parish church has schools at Mabgate, Call Lane, Meadow Lane, the Bank Nether Green, and Feather Hill—St. Paul's church has schools at the back of Park Place, at the back of Park Lane, at Park Cross Street, and at School Lane, Kirkgate—St. James's church, St. John's church, and Woodhouse church, have also their respective establishments of a similar description.

THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AT BRADFORD, BELONG TO THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH. The library for Promoting Christian Knowledge, is held in a room adjoining the Church Sunday School—the Church Missionary Society, of which the vicar is president, and two clergymen are secretaries—the president and one of the secretaries of the Bible Society are clergymen—and there is a Sunday School belonging to the Old Church, on Stott Hill, certainly one of the most efficient in the county, and another at the top of Darley Street, belonging to Christ Church.

THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS IN THE OTHER TOWNS BELONG TO THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH. At Wakefield, there is a District Committee, for Promoting Christian Knowledge, with a clergyman as treasurer and secretary, and a depository in the Market Place—the Bible Society receives a large proportion of its support from the church, and there is a very extensive Sunday School, connected with the parish church. At Dewsbury, there is a Church Missionary Society, and a very large Sunday School, is supported at the parish church. At Otley, the principal number both of the officers and supporters of the Bible Society are churchmen, and there is a good Sunday School connected with the parish church.

These institutions will afford to our readers some data upon which to estimate the present state of zeal and exertion, for the promotion of religion in the established church in this district. Similar institutions are generally to be found connected with the churches in those villages, where the inhabitants are manufacturing—but it is to be regretted that they are rarely to be discovered in connexion with the churches which are in the agricultural and less densely populated portion of the district. The established church has followed the example of the Methodists and Dissenters in its local religious institutions, though it must be acknowledged that they are seldom supported with corresponding liberality and zeal. We have little hesitation in asserting that the establishment is more prosperous in Bradford, than in any other town or place in this part of the country, and that its institutions and affairs are sustained with more activity and energy, than in the other places we have reviewed.

It is of course impossible, nor would it be necessary if it were possible, to give a statement of the amount of income derived by the clergy in this district from the people, or from endowments and other similar sources. This district, as well as every other part of the kingdom, demonstrates the monstrous disproportion of remuneration to labour; the richest benefices within its boundaries, being those in which there in the most limited number of inhabitants, and where the least quantum of work is performed. This circumstance has created and will perpetuate a prejudice against the establishment, which has a most injurious effect upon its general prosperity and reputation.

It gives us pleasure to affirm, that the conduct and demeanour of the clergy in this district, so far as morality is concerned, is generally exemplary—in this part of the country they are completely before the eye of the people—surrounded by dissentients of every name, they are the objects of constant and special observation—we have consequently rarely the exhibition of those public scandals and disgraces, fox hunting, convivial, gambling parsons, and the very circumstances in which the establishment is placed in this district, will always constitute a sufficient guarantee against any flagrant violations of principle and decorum. Where any such unhappy instances have occurred, the offenders have generaly been removed immediately from the district.

END OF VOL. I.

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NOTICE TO THE READER.

THE reader is requested to substitute with his pen for the word *another*, in p. 144, line 16 from the bottom, the name *Mr. Kemplay*. He is also reminded that in the department of civil history he will find no accounts of ecclesiastical, literary, and commercial institutions and edifices, which are all stated under their respective heads, and will be found in those divisions of the work to which they respectively belong.